

## Strategic Assessment for the Draft Perth and Peel Green Growth Plan for 3.5 million -

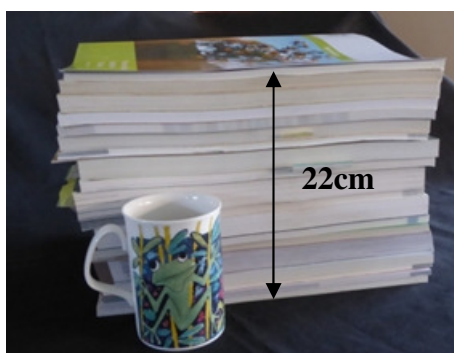
### "Holy mackerel! (apologies to Batman and Robin) What was the State Government thinking??"

Compiled by Colma Keating

As we are all well aware the review of the natural components of the Perth and Peel Regions is complex and important and whilst we appreciate that the government invested 4-5 years in re-researching, analysing and compiling the Draft Green Growth Plan (GGP) - its size and confusion is way beyond anything we have seen.



**The GGP** - 3,000 pages - this is equivalent to reading a document approximately 22 centimetres thick or five times the size of the 2015/16 Perth Business and Government White Pages.



Added to this, the complexity of dealing with 16 docs and 42 individual figures and appendices that need to be opened and/or downloaded from the internet made this a cumbersome and certainly for us, an impossible task. This is before referring to the 'Commonwealth Impact Assessment' documentation consisting of 14 documents and five appendices.

**Editor's Note:** Despite this, the information presented failed to show that future growth could be achieved in a sustainable way. Closer analysis shows inconsistencies, understatement of impacts and lack transparency. This issue provides an overview of some key issues identified by the UBC and by Friends Groups.

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# Editorial

Our Banksia woodlands are suffering severe threats of continued clearing and fragmentation; falling groundwater levels and changed hydrology; climate change; Phytophthora dieback, weeds and feral animals; as well as increased fire frequency.

It is the combination of these threats that is such a risk to ecosystem functioning and the retention of our unique species and communities in Banksia woodlands. Now that grassy weeds are widespread on the coastal plain, just one disturbance of the soil will almost inevitably result in weed invasion. After fire, grassy weeds tend to take over exacerbating fire risk even more. Connectivity with other patches of bushland in our now highly fragmented landscape has become critical to the recolonisation of burnt patches by native species after such events.

The current situation is that Banksia woodlands are being cleared patch by patch, some small, some large, many are linkages, and now less than 30% remain in the Perth and Peel regions of the coastal plain. Even more alarming, many sub-areas especially on the eastern side of the Swan Coastal Plain, and south of the Swan River have less than 10% remaining, and are increasingly lacking linkages which are essential for ecological functioning.

Obviously the UBC strongly supports the proposed listing of Banksia woodlands of the Swan Coastal Plain as an endangered threatened ecological community under the federal EPBC Act. Further, we have recommended that small patches and linear patches which function as linkages, all be included in the minimum threshold to be considered Matters of National Environmental Significance even if in poor condition. These small patches and linkages must be considered in the category of the 'most valuable elements of the ecological community.'

There is a significant annual net loss by clearing of Banksia woodlands, and it is not being monitored, audited or reported. This must change for protection of our unique rich and rare Banksia woodlands which dominate the Swan Coastal Plain of our southwest biodiversity hotspot of global significance. We recommended that a workshop with scientists be held one year after the TEC listing comes into effect to review the process, progress and success in protecting areas and in halting the net loss.

Further, we recommended that a mandatory provision be included for an annual audit by suitably experienced scientists and specialists in DPAW, of all clearing and restoration of Banksia woodlands and that it is made publicly available.

## NEWSLETTER ITEMS

Compiled by: Renata Zelinova

PLEASE SEND CONTRIBUTIONS TO: [ubc@bushlandperth.org.au](mailto:ubc@bushlandperth.org.au)

**Copy deadline - 15 July 2016**



## Urban Bushland Council Visit to Bush Forever Site 402

Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> June  
(World Environment Day)  
from 9.00am – 10.30am

Photo by T. Graham-Taylor

### Black-winged stilts at Pelican Point

Members and friends are warmly invited to a guided walk through Bush Forever Site 402, located along the Swan Estuary foreshore in Crawley.

The walk will take you from Matilda Bay A-Class Reserve through the terrestrial section of Pelican Point Marine Park to JH Abrahams Reserve.

Pelican Point is one of only three Marine Parks in the Swan River Estuary, set aside for the conservation of flora and fauna. Its coastal salt-marsh has been federally listed as a Threatened Ecological Community and its shallows and riparian vegetation provide habitat for a diversity of birdlife, including trans-equatorial wading birds.

Please meet at 9.00am at the permanent shelter on the Matilda Bay foreshore **immediately opposite an entry to the University of Western Australia called Hackett Entrance 3.**

## AVAILABLE 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.

## Great gift idea

**PERTH'S BUSHLAND BIRTHDAY & PERPETUAL**

**CALENDAR**

**\$10 plus \$2 postage**

**Available by mail order from the UBC office.**

# Bush Forever buried alive

Amongst other concerns, the state government's draft Perth and Peel Green Growth Plan (GGP) does not recognise or include the status of Bush Forever as a 'CAR' reserve system of protected areas under the Government's commitment to the 1996 *National Strategy for the Conservation of Australia's Biodiversity* for the Swan Coastal Plain portion of the Perth Metropolitan Region. This is despite the statement on page 15, 2.1.2 of the Draft Strategic Conservation Plan, under the key commitment of expanding the conservation reserve system: *'The creation and management of a comprehensive, adequate and representational conservation reserve system (CAR reserve system) is a cornerstone of State wide biodiversity conservation efforts.'*



The eventually released on-line maps for the Green Growth Plan do not show boundaries, names or numbers of Bush Forever areas, despite the fact that these are defined on the statutory MRS map for Perth. Despite the fact that the government has the capability, resources and data sets to easily provide this critical detail. Despite the fact that requests have been made for such detail to be provided so that the community can respond to the draft GGP. Bush Forever Areas are actually scattered through the GGP on-line maps as either dark green (conservation reserves), dark blue (areas for phase 1 implementation), the majority in light blue (phase 2 implementation), with the remainder relegated to 'other commitments'.

After more than a full week's laborious volunteer effort cross referencing Bush Forever maps and GGP maps, the UBC has compiled a spreadsheet showing how each Bush Forever Area is treated in the GGP. Alarming, this table ( [www.bushlandperth.org.au/bush-forever-overview/18-why-bush-forever/243-strategic-assessment-perth-peel-regions](http://www.bushlandperth.org.au/bush-forever-overview/18-why-bush-forever/243-strategic-assessment-perth-peel-regions) ) illustrates that:

74 Areas will be very badly impacted either directly or indirectly by the GGP Actions.

158 Areas shown as Phase 2 commitments do not meet Bush Forever recommendations.

This represents a denial of the CAR status of Bush Forever as a reserve system and fails to properly implement it. For example, the well accepted, actively managed and high profile Bold Park (BF 312) is shown as light blue for Phase 2, as is the actively managed Shenton Bushland (BF 218). The very high conservation value Anstey-Keane Damplands (BF 342) are shown as part Phase 1, part Phase 2, and part 'industrial' with 'specific

commitments'. The only two lots remaining in private ownership are shown in Phase 2 despite already being zoned for Parks and Recreation (P&R), which means the government will purchase these lots - and indeed is in this process now. So what does this all mean for the future security of this Anstey-Keane wetland site of the highest conservation significance?

One can either be cynical to suggest that the stages of implementation enable the state government to falsely claim 'new additions to the conservation estate' in years to come, or more concerning, that the reduced level of appropriate and previously agreed protection and management will lead to future downgrading and clearing of these jewels in Perth and Peel.

Buried in 'Action Plans' F and H, is the proposed use of 'offsets' to fund Bush Forever with the justification of 'avoidance' of Carnaby's cockatoo habitat. Offsets are used to justify unjustifiable clearing.

- Does this mean the intent is to allow clearing and destruction of some Bush Forever sites?
- Will offset money rather than the Metropolitan Region Improvement Trust Fund (MRIF) be used to purchase privately owned sites, and to manage others?

Implementation of Bush Forever is clearly an existing state government responsibility. The MRIF provides funding for acquisition of sites and initial capital works and management. These funds for Bush Forever implementation should be used without further delay, to acquire all the remaining unsecured Bush Forever sites and to set them up for conservation management.

The draft Green Growth Plan must be revised after all Bush Forever sites are secured, ceded to the Crown, and formally transferred under the *Land Administration Act* to the conservation estate, with suitable conservation land managers allocated. Many Bush Forever Areas may best be managed by the Local Government Authority. The UBC's Call for Action on Bush Forever, October 2015, gives the details of work to be completed without any further delay.

Perth's Banksia woodlands and wetland ecosystems are unique and rich in biodiversity, and precious but under threat. The Green Growth Plan requires considerable revision to ensure this fabulous natural landscape setting is protected and managed for its highly acknowledged intrinsic value as well as for the benefit of us all.



## Whatever Happened to the Gngangara Park?

*By Philip Jennings*

In November 1996, shortly before the 1997 State Election, the Premier Richard Court proudly announced that Cabinet had approved a 50,000 hectare reserve to be called the Gngangara Park.

He said, “Just imagine if the whole Gngangara pine plantation became one vast conservation and recreation park” He went on to say that the 23,000ha pine plantation would be removed and replaced over a period of 20 years and that a further 27,000ha of surrounding State-owned banksia woodland would be included in the Park. He cited numerous benefits for society including recreation, tourism, conservation of flora and fauna and protection of the groundwater resources of the Gngangara Mound.

He said that the new Gngangara Park would be “100 times the size of Kings Park” and that as the pine plantation was cleared the land would be replanted with native species.

The Court Government honoured its promise and released a Concept Plan for the Gngangara Park in May 1999 and invited public comment. Many submissions were received, most of which congratulated the Government on this magnificent initiative. However, in the past 17 years nothing more has been done to establish the Park.

In the meantime the importance of this area for endangered flora and fauna has become more apparent. It has been identified as the main roosting site for more than 50% of the black cockatoos that inhabit the Metropolitan Area. It also contains two declared rare species and 18 species listed on DPAW’s priority flora lists. It also has two critically endangered ecological communities as well as several threatened ecological communities. It has over 30 different vegetation communities and many conservation category wetlands.

The Green Growth Plan fails to mention the Gngangara Park and instead proposes a fragmented reserve system in the Gngangara area and the clearing of the pine plantation. This is expected to result in the loss of up to 50% of the black cockatoos that currently inhabit the Perth Metropolitan Area.

We must ask why the Coalition Government has reneged on its 1997 election promise to create the Gngangara Park. Surely this Park should be the centerpiece of the GGP as it would help to protect so many endangered species and our precious groundwater resources.

Please remind the Government of this promise when you make your submission on the GGP and ask them to establish the Gngangara Park, along the lines of the 1999 proposal, as a matter of priority.

## Another Flaw in the Draft Perth and Peel Green Growth Plan – Inadequate Wetland Buffer Guidelines

*By Philip Jennings  
Wetlands Conservation Society*

We have been waiting for many years for the State Government to finalize its Wetland Buffer Guidelines. These were first promised in the State Wetlands Conservation Policy of 1997 (see commitment 1.9). The aim was to ensure that wetlands and residents were protected from the edge impacts of development. We have seen too many poorly planned developments too close to wetlands that have caused pollution or degradation of the wetland or a nuisance to residents from mosquitoes and midges.

In 1996, Peter Davies and Jim Lane prepared a report for the Australian Nature Conservation Agency on how to design ecologically based buffers for wetlands. This report formed the basis for a draft of the Wetland Buffer Guidelines. These were prepared with public input in the late nineties and released for public review in 2005. Following the closing date of the review, nothing more was heard of the Guidelines for more than a decade, despite frequent reminders from the conservation movement. Now the draft GGP is promising Wetland Buffer Guidelines that will apply only to Conservation Category Wetlands.

This is a disappointing back down by the Government from the commitment of the Court Coalition Government in 1997. Conservation Category Wetlands (CCW) represent only 17% of the remaining wetlands in the Perth and Peel Region, where over 80% of the original wetlands have been destroyed by development. The Wetland Buffer Guidelines were originally intended to apply to all of the remaining wetlands, not just to CCW. Many of the Resource Enhancement and Multiple Use wetlands have value for conservation, recreation, landscape enhancement and agriculture. Some of the RE and MU wetlands have been successfully rehabilitated by local government and community groups and are now CCW. However, the wetlands classification scheme, developed by the EPA in the eighties, was never intended to be a ranking system. It was designed to identify the management needs and social functions of all the remaining wetlands. We have already lost so many of our wetlands that we cannot afford to mismanage the remainder. All remaining wetlands must be respected and managed wisely as they are the areas of greatest biological productivity on the Coastal Plain and therefore essential for ecological health.

The Government must revise the GGP to ensure that all remaining wetlands in the Perth and Peel Region are conserved and provided with ecologically based buffers. Wetlands with inadequate buffers are likely to become ongoing environmental and social problems.

## Coastal Park or Canals? The future of Bush Forever Site 355

*Adjunct Professor George Burns*

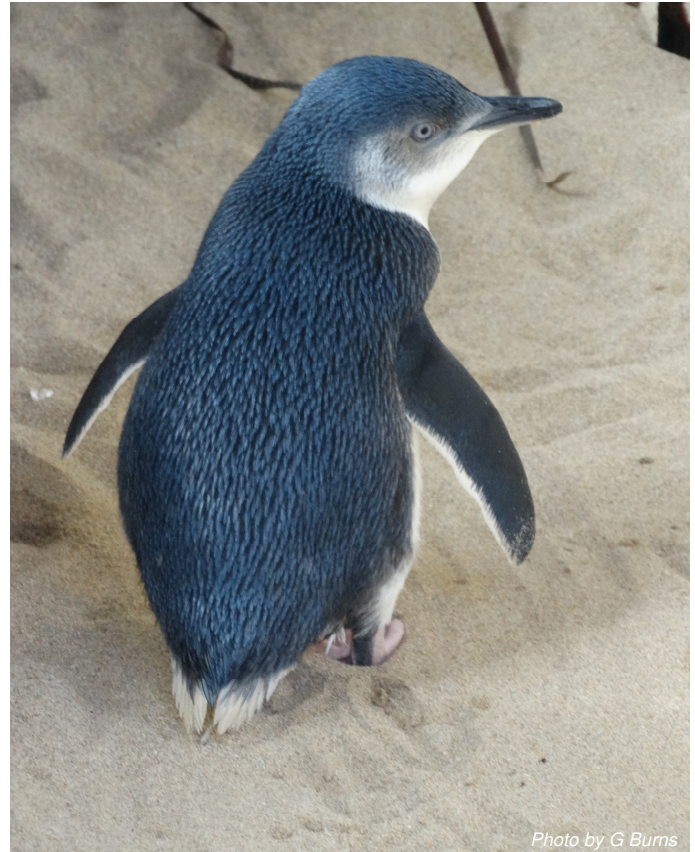
West Australians love Point Peron. Many have attended the Camp School, visited or holidayed on this uniquely diverse coastal promontory. There is simply nowhere else like it on the WA coast. Given to WA in 1964 to remain a park for the people of Western Australia forever, it is currently a designated Bush Forever site – in other words, designated to be protected. Who would want to see the loss of such critically unique urban bushland to an inland marina and canal complex or, more likely - if finances don't permit the expensive canals – to a top-end residential housing enclave?

As Perth's population burgeons, we need more parks and urban bushland – not less. A 2014 study by Edith Cowan University researchers, May Carter and Prof Pierre Horwitz, affirmed that access to parks and green spaces within residential neighbourhoods has been shown to be an important pathway to generate better physical and mental health for both individuals and communities. Urban parks, bushland and green spaces provide places for sport and active recreation, places to relax and enjoy solitude, places to meet other people and socialise and places that evoke feelings of connection to the natural world. Accessible bushland leads to healthier, happy people and, consequently, reduced community costs in both physical and mental health services. The intent for Bush Forever sites, such as Point Peron, is to ensure they (a) are set aside to be protected 'forever', (b) are not given over to private developers and (c) serve an essential role in individual and community well-being.

The current proposal by the State Liberal government and joint ventures Cedarwoods and LandCorp to rezone Point Peron's Bush Forever site to urban development for private profit needs to be strongly opposed

([www.handsoffpointperon.com](http://www.handsoffpointperon.com)). The community has developed a far more creative idea consistent with the original 1964 Agreement. It proposes Cape Peron (its official name) be preserved and developed as the Cape Peron Coastal Park in accord with the original 1964 Agreement. The Cape Peron Coastal Park would be like a Kings Park of the Southern metro area where no similar facilities exist. This community vision is for:

**A nature-based recreational park** for the people of Rockingham, Perth and Western Australia, that would include active recreational opportunities for cycling, walking, snorkeling, diving, kayaking and playing in adventure playground as well have passive recreation-



*Photo by G Burns*

*Our endangered Little Penguin.*

al opportunities for picnicking, sitting in botanic gardens, enjoying a coffee, watching outdoor entertainment, relaxing on the beach and photographing a stunning sunset.

**A tourist-attracting coastal park** that will draw state, national and international tourists thereby adding to the state's economy and creating a rich range of on-going, sustainable job opportunities in the park construction, maintenance and tourism.

**A diverse conservation park** with sandy beaches, rugged cliffs, three threatened ecological communities, the closest fresh water lake to the ocean in Australia, more than 100 visiting birds species, the world's most endangered sea lions and, of course, our iconic Little Penguin.

**An economically viable park** that will be a low cost alternative to an expensive, destructive canal development and return around \$2.5 billion to the economy in the 20 years that it is projected to take to build the Mangles Bay Marina ([www.cape-peron-coastal-park.com](http://www.cape-peron-coastal-park.com)).

A coastal park at Cape Peron will have significantly lower and more viable setup costs than the extremely costly Mangles Bay Marina. It will provide immediate and sustainable ongoing job and business opportunities for the community, bringing both an immediate and ongoing boost to the economy. As such it will be a low cost, low impact, high value and high return way to preserve this unique urban bushland, as it was intended, for the people of Western Australia forever. And it needs our strong, active support to make it happen.





# Group News Group News Group News

## Friends of Paganoni Swamp

We find it is the small things that make us smile.

Along with Julia Cullity from Urban Nature, we had spent a few hours checking on the health of 85 banksias (from an original number of 90) that had been tagged in 2014 as part of our Banksia Woodland Restoration grant. Whilst it's pretty sobering to see the devastation caused by dieback, which is present on the eastern boundary of Paganoni Swamp Reserve, it was reassuring to find that there had only been one further death of a tagged tree in the infested, untreated zone. Mapping had also confirmed that the active disease front was relatively stable with a low number of new deaths primarily of smaller trees.

This was in contrast to 2012 when mapping identified a significant number of deaths of both large and small trees. We consider it fortunate to have received grants to apply phosphite by injection and/or spraying to ameliorate the impacts of this persistent disease and hopefully to stall its movement westward. We were also fortunate in obtaining a Resilient Landscape's grant in 2015 to construct a limestone "bridge" over part of the track adjacent to dieback areas, in a further endeavour to restrict westward movement of the disease.

When we returned to the reserve's main entrance we found new gates (pictured below) has been installed and it was this that brought a smile.



The original gates had been barged and torn off their hinges any number of times, and were so deformed it appeared that it was only the gates' intrinsic knowledge of their value to the reserve that kept them upright. To close them was an exercise in itself. When we had arrived that morning the original gates had welcomed us in, so it was certainly a surprise to see spanking new gates when we returned four hours' later.

That's not to say there aren't plenty of other things at Paganoni Swamp Reserve that make us smile. Watching a

mouse spider wandering aimlessly (in our opinion) across the track also brought a smile as we carefully stepped out of his way.

*Leonie Stubbs*



*Mouse spider*

## Friends of Lake Claremont Let the Planting Begin!

The planting season is near. And it's going to be epic! The Friends of Lake Claremont (FOLC) will lead over 1,000 volunteers to plant 37,000 native seedlings this winter. We will need all the help we can get as we continue the amazing transformation of the area.

The public are invited to join the FOLC in any of our public planting sessions which run from June to August including:

Local Residents Planting Day – June 12<sup>th</sup> 9am -12pm  
Perth NRM Youth Planting Day – June 25<sup>th</sup> 9am – 1pm  
Planting for the Birds – July 10<sup>th</sup> 9am to 12pm  
National Tree Day – July 31<sup>st</sup> 9am to 12pm  
Friends Planting Day - August 14<sup>th</sup> 9am to 1pm

Please check the FOLC website for planting locations closer to the time: <http://www.friendsoflakeclaremont.org/>

The FOLC are leading one of the largest ongoing restoration projects in Perth. In the past 6 years the group has won over \$500,000 in grants, planting more than 250,000 local native seedlings in and around Lake Claremont, a Conservation Category Wetland and Bush Forever site tucked away in the Western Suburbs of Perth.

In 2009, the Town of Claremont closed the long nine hole golf course keeping all 21 ha as parkland. This opened up the amazing opportunity to restore about 50% of the area to native vegetation, keeping other areas open for public recreation. This winter the FOLC are continuing 3 major projects:

Restoring the remnant bushland – Funded in part by a special **25th Anniversary Landcare Grant** by the Commonwealth Department of Environment  
Restoring the eastern wetland buffer - Funded in part



# Group News Group News Group News

by the Swan River Trust Alcoa Landcare Program (SALP)

Creating native woodland on the northeast side of the lake - Funded in part by the **Government of West Australia's State NRM (Natural Resource Management) Program.**

The FOLC are directed and supported by the Town of Claremont which provides the pathways, fencing and mulching.



*Lake Claremont in 2010, before the start of bushland restoration.*



*Lake Claremont in 2014, an amazing transformation through the implementation of the 'Creating Native Woodland' project.*

**Please consider joining in!**

**Perth NRM: Youth Planting Days – A new Initiative**

June 25, 2016 @ 9:00 am - 1:00 pm

Lake Claremont, Australia

To attract more volunteers, the FOLC have teamed up with Perth NRM in a great new initiative called: "Living Perth". The program encourages participation in creating and maintaining a healthy, sustainable environment. In particular, the scheme aims to engage young people in volunteering, like planting, to help reduce the effects of environmental degradation and climate change. Each individual effort we make to help regenerate our lakes and parks can make a huge difference!

Perth NRM has 3 Youth Planting Events planned with

local groups this winter. The [Youth Planting Day](#) at Lake Claremont will be held June 25<sup>th</sup>. The FOLC hope to attract up to 100 youngsters.

*Heidi Hardisty*

## **Friends of Wireless Hill**

Wireless Hill is an extremely valuable Banksia Woodland reserve with high biodiversity including large numbers of orchids. The Friends of Wireless Hill work in partnership with the City of Melville to preserve this precious asset. The Friends are extremely pleased to have received two grants to continue our work at Wireless Hill. We have received a SALP (Swan River Trust and Alcoa Landcare Program) grant, and we were also successful in obtaining a State NRM Community Action grant.

The Friends are very grateful for this funding which will enable us to continue to employ experienced bush care workers to manually control weeds in the park. Wireless Hill was cleared in 1912 for a telegraph station and South African perennial veldt grass was planted to stabilise the soil. The bush regenerated but weeds remain, contributing to the fuel load and competing with native grasses and other plants. Other major weeds in the park include Gladioli and Freesia, bulbous weeds well adapted to our dry environment. We have been fortunate to have Alcoa staff from the local office volunteer in Gladi pulls over several seasons. The photo shows their yield after the last Gladi pull.

We have found that removing weeds by hand, rather than chemically, facilitates a much quicker and more diverse recovery of native vegetation. We are currently applying for Landcare funding for training to allow safe work along roadsides in the park.

*Margaret Matthews*





# Group News Group News Group News

## Friends of Ken Hurst Park

What a fabulous day we had on May Day planting native trees and shrubs in Ken Hurst Park in Leeming in the City of Melville! Not only was the weather kind – not too hot, not too wet - but team worked eagerly, very efficiently, rapidly and enthusiastically to plant native trees and shrubs in degraded and superfluous tracks and cleared open spaces as part of the Department of Parks and Wildlife's Banksia Woodland Restoration grant to the Friends of Ken Hurst Park.

The 32 volunteers from all over Perth, comprising Friends of Ken Hurst Park as well as work colleagues, local government staff and Facebook friends, planted about 850 tube-stock in a little more than three hours, bagging, fertilising and watering them as well as installing them.



Photo by E Wajon

*Great activity at the start of planting.*

Four different methods were used in planting – digging small holes with trowels, using Potti Putkis, disturbing the ground first with specially designed long thin shovels, and pre-augering 500mm deep x 150mm wide holes. These methods will be compared over the next 2-4 years to see which technique results in the greatest plant survival.

Survival in the past has ranged from 0 to 50%, with the highest survival associated with bagging plants and watering for at least 3 months over summer. With the more disruptive techniques (i.e. auguring and deep soil disturbance techniques), we expect this to increase. However,



Photo by E Wajon

*Gus and Barb King.*



Photo by E Wajon

*Sue and Jacklyn*

we aim to get close to 90% survival by watering in winter, i.e. May to August, when plants establish themselves to survive the hot summer, replacing and augmenting the decreasing natural winter rainfall Perth has been receiving over the last 25 years.

At the end of the bush planting, everybody and everything – including tools, soles, buckets and tyres – was washed down and treated with 70% methylated spirits or Phytoclean to remove all traces of soil and associated dieback fungus. Most of the volunteers, that is those that didn't have family or other commitments, came back to the Southern Metropolitan Council's Regional Resource Recovery Centre for a lunch prepared by more Ken Hurst Park volunteers.



Photo by E Wajon

*Cheerful volunteers in Ken Hurst Park - Mike, Lisa, Erika, Alf, Jason and Sue.*

Now all we need is some rain in the next week to get the plants off to a good start (though even if this occurs, we will be giving each plant a good drink within the month).

Thanks to all who participated in any way with this activity, and we look forward to inviting you back to see the results on a future bush/wildflower walk.

*Eddy Wajon*

## Friends of Inglewood Triangle

Need something to do for an hour or two on a lovely winter or spring day?

We would love for you to come and stroll around our little urban treasure.





Photo by J Baas

Inglewood Triangle is one of the few areas of Bassendean central and south vegetation complex within the City of Stirling; a mere six kilometres from the CBD and located within a highly urbanised and long settled suburb. This bushland is part of the remaining 3% of this complex in Stirling; and has areas in excellent condition with intact understorey and ground cover as well as containing examples of the 7 key trees of the Banksia woodlands. However, it is under severe threat from weed invasion and is very susceptible to arson attack given one of its boundaries is Walter Road.

We might have only 1.7 hectares of Banksia Woodlands but it is a real gem. Check out our bushland at the UBC Urban Treasures website:

<http://www.bushlandperth.org.au/bushland-treasures/north-of-the-river/222-inglewood-triangle>

And for our small crew of volunteers many thanks for all your support during 2015. It has been a very busy year and here are some of the highlights:

## Perth College Kindy

A highlight of 2015 has been our sessions in the bush with the Perth College Kindy class and their wonderful teacher Suzanne Bushby. They have truly adopted Inglewood Triangle and we have really enjoyed their company. They made several visits during the year. They are our Environmentalists of the future!

## Weed control - veldt grass

In 2015, we continued the good progress with weed con-



Photo by J Baas

trol made in 2014. The City of Stirling continued selective spraying for veldt grass and the Friends undertook volunteer weeding each week from April to December. These weeding efforts were supplemented by CVA and the MLSHS Bushranger Cadets.

## 2015 Community Planting Day

Our annual planting day was sponsored by the City of Stirling and was held on Saturday 11 July. We were joined by players and parents from the Inglewood United Junior Soccer Club. After planting out about 600 tube stock, we went across to their Club rooms for refreshments provided by the City of Stirling. Jo Taylor from CoS also arranged to have cockatoos from the Kaarakin Black Cockatoo Conservation Centre come along.

## Thanks to our local botanist

Graham Z may have gone to Panama but he still helps us identify many of the sedges and ground covers that are so difficult to identify. Many thanks to Graham for his assistance and patience. Each year we identify more species – some of the exciting finds in 2015 are *Acacia applanata*, *Schoenus curvifolius* and *S. pedicellatus* (both sedge like small plants that all look so alike) and *Diuris magnifica*, the Pansy Orchid

*Christine Allbeury*

## Friends of Mosman Park

With the future of our urban bushland weighing me down, a distant red hue lured me off the path and brightened my whole summer. Yeah! Mosman Park has coastal mistletoe, *Amyema preissii*.



Photo by S Conlan

Wireleaf Mistletoe - *Amyema preissii* on branches of *Acacia saligna*. Check out this link <http://www.aace.org.au/docs/WABugs/cs2.pdf> to find out why "Mistletoe is a Must". This spectacular plant flowers over summer when about the only other thing flowering are gum trees. Close to the ground but 2m high, it bustles with honeyeaters. Could this plant bring mistletoe birds back to Mosman Park? Or perhaps the beautiful Amaryllis Azure butterflies? Read how black ants under the host wattle tree will tend the eggs and larvae of this butterfly so the ants can sup the sweet secretion from the caterpillars. The ants hold the caterpillars hostage during the day only releasing them at night when predatory wasps are asleep.





Berries of *Amyema preissii*.

Photo by S Conlan

The story gets even better! As the mass of flowers eventually disintegrate they left behind a mass of plump pink fruit to marvel at. No mistletoe birds have been spotted so far although APACE nursery at North Fremantle had one visit a couple of years ago.

What will become of the mistletoe? The *Saligna* wattle host is looking very weary! In lieu of mistletoe birds, bushland pixies have been wiping the sticky seeds onto fresh wattle branches.

Head down the path behind the David Jones Pavillion on Tom Perrot oval, McCabe Street, Mosman Park and look under the powerlines next time you are nearby.

Sue Conlan

## Quinns Rocks Environmental Group

Following the Group's appeal to the Minister for Environment; Heritage, the Hon Albert Jacob MLA in January this year, we were greatly disappointed by a letter from the Office of EPA received at the end of April, advising us that the freeway extension from Burns Beach to Hester Avenue will be completed without any provisions for east-west fauna movement between the separated portions of the Neerabup National Park and other conservation areas west of the National Park.

We have asked the Environment Minister to intervene and uphold the Ministerial Condition set for this project. Arguments however, such as past decisions to allow a railway alignment to proceed in 2001 without any fauna movement provisions due to then held views of their in-effectiveness, and then a lack of funding are still used as a base for not seeking to maximise the functionality of potentially the most contiguous ecological linkage, represented by the full suite of vegetation complexes from the coast to the eastern Swan Coastal Plain north of the Swan River. We now know that there are ways to facilitate fauna movement over wide infrastructure corridors. Yet, the political will to use them in WA is clearly missing.

It is beyond belief to see that it was not possible to include an east-west fauna corridor in a \$261.4 million project. Indeed, we have never received an actual figure for how much would it cost to provide for east-west fauna movement as it was never properly investigated.

In addition, all the vegetation within the road reserve has been cleared, except for very few trees from the large number marked by the members of the Community Reference Group. This contradicts the draft Perth and Peel Green Growth's Plan (PPGGP) mapped this cleared area as 'Phase 2 - Areas where the additional 80,000 hectares of conservation reserves will be sought from. Well, not from here anymore.

It is of great concern that the PPGGP will result of continuous loss of small birds, insects, lizards and other ground dwelling animals in Perth and Peel. Yet, with adequate policy and planning provisions, *there are still opportunities to establish functioning connections between diverse natural areas*, facilitating the species shifts expected due to climate change. In its current form, the PPGGP's Conservation Plan only allows for the retention of some isolated conservation reserves - where we know the diversity of species will decline over time. Another big gap in the PPGGP's Strategic Conservation Plan.

Renata Zelinova

## Friends of Underwood Avenue

In Underwood Avenue Bushland, I thought I might see some Bunny Orchids as some people have posted photos of them in other bushlands. To my great delight I saw Hare Orchids, *Leporella fimbriata* (pictured below).

They are very inconspicuous, and there were 17 plants on one 3m long patch. I learnt from Mark Brundrett's book 'Identification and Ecology of Southwest Australian Orchids' that Hare Orchids have 'a unique pollination association with flying ants, discovered by Bob Bates (1979) and subject of a detailed study by Rod Peakall (1989). In WA, flowers of this species are pollinated exclusively by winged male Bull Ants that attempt to copulate with the lip....'

Marg Owen

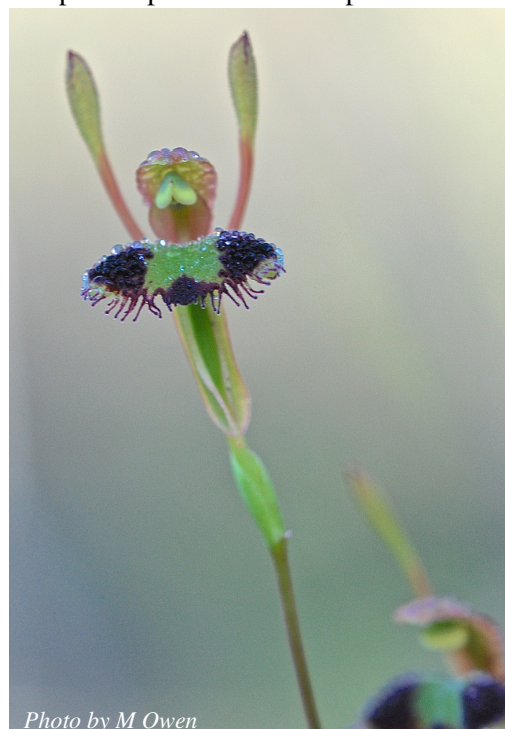


Photo by M Owen



## Why would the State Government put a road through this?



### **The South Trigg Beach Reserve Bush Forever Area 308 Class A Reserve, under threat.**

The State Government's development arm the Metropolitan Redevelopment Authority (MRA), has included two new roads in its \$100m Master Plan for the redevelopment of Scarborough Beach. These proposed roads would extend The Esplanade north and south at Scarborough Beach destroying vegetated coastal dunes which are designated Bush Forever Areas.

The photograph above shows the existing dual path that is the approximate route of the proposed northern road extension except the road would be much wider and would be built further west towards the ocean. If this road is built it will destroy the best vegetated and most deeply dissected Quindalup dunes in this small pristine coastal reserve.

The standard width for two lane roads in WA is 7.4 metres and given the likelihood of parallel parking and a bike and pedestrian lane, we can safely assume these roads will be much wider. We have also been advised by the MRA that given the depth of the valleys and the height of the sand dunes along the road route, retaining walls or embankments will be necessary. Not only will this destroy the dunes along the route, the impact on the remainder of the reserve will be devastating, during construction and forever afterwards.

The MRA appears unmoved by the prospect of being the destroyer of the South Trigg Beach Reserve which is part of Bush Forever Area 308 and the Trigg Bushland. This 1km long (approximately 10 ha) dune reserve located between Scarborough and Trigg Beaches, is the only coastal reserve in the City of Stirling that is a designated Class A Reserve. This is in recognition of its importance as a flora and fauna habitat and an example of how our coastline used to look before white settlement. Located as it is between two of Perth's most popular beaches, this reserve is constantly under threat from development, this road proposal is the most recent example.

The South Trigg Beach Reserve contains some of the mostly densely vegetated dunes left between West Coast Highway and the ocean in the City of Stirling. The dunes are very steep and irregular as a result of multiple geological forces. Well known ecologist Dr Judy Fisher Phd has studied this reserve and prepared a report for the City of Stirling in 2013:

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

The South Trigg Beach Reserve is vested in the City of Stirling for the purpose of conservation, passive recreation and education. Last time we looked, roads did not fit into any of these categories. Why is the City of Stirling abrogating its responsibility as manager of this reserve?

The MRA has not released the final plans or maps of the proposed Esplanade road extensions. However, it constantly refers to the roads in its announcements on the Scarborough Beach redevelopment. No environmental assessment has been carried out on the impact of the construction of the roads despite surveyors recently seen working in the area. The lack of transparency on the part of the State Government and the MRA is totally unacceptable and displays contempt for the local residents and those who care about protecting what is left of our natural coastal environment.

Express your opposition to these roads by writing to the MRA at [reception@mra.wa.gov.au](mailto:reception@mra.wa.gov.au) and the City of Stirling [stirling@stirling.wa.gov.au](mailto:stirling@stirling.wa.gov.au); Liza Harvey MLA Member for Scarborough at [Liza.Harvey@mp.wa.gov.au](mailto:Liza.Harvey@mp.wa.gov.au).

Keep up to date on our campaign to stop the roads by becoming a Supporter of the Friends of Trigg Beach contact us on [friendsoftriggbeach@gmail.com](mailto:friendsoftriggbeach@gmail.com). Like us on

# Group News Group News Group News

Facebook [www.facebook/savetriggbeach](http://www.facebook/savetriggbeach) and have a look at our website <http://friendsoftriggbeach.org/>

Please sign this petition and share it:

<https://www.change.org/p/save-our-sand-dunes-stop-the-road>

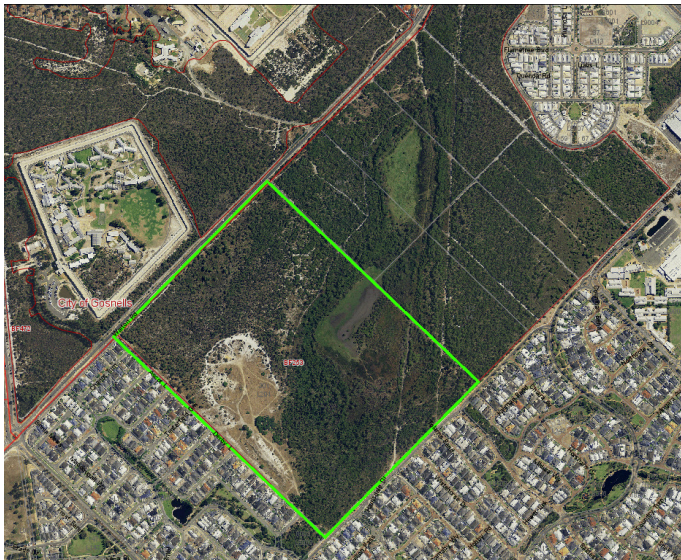
This is a local business who is opposed to the road. Support the cafe and like its Facebook Page: The Hardware Store Cafe and Eatery Face Book page <https://www.facebook.com/TheHardwareStoreCafeEatery>

*Robyn Murphy  
Friends of Trigg Beach*

## Harrisdale Swamp and adjacent bushland (BF253) is now in public ownership.

Local community have sought to secure adequate management of bushland and wetlands at this site. They have finally received the good news.

A recent communication from the Department of Planning advised that the last privately owned block of land within BF253 was acquired by the WAPC. Following settlement, fencing and rubbish removal will be a priority.



About 50 hectares of bushland was acquired by the WAPC to complete BF253. It is anticipated that the whole site will be transferred to the Department of Parks and Wildlife for management.

### MyWeedWatcher App



Community members, local government officers and others with an interest in weeds can now use smartphone and tablet devices to identify, survey and report weeds and view results online.

**MyWeedWatcher** enables users to identify weeds, conduct surveys on weeds of interest and report on the presence of declared weeds.

The Android, iPhone and on-line versions are available now, see:

<https://www.agric.wa.gov.au/weed-surveillance>

## Are we there yet? - No Roe 8 rolls on

There is never a dull moment in the campaign to protect the Beeliar Wetlands. On Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> May Save Beeliar Wetlands were back in the Supreme Court defending the December decision by Justice Wayne Martin against the appeal lodged by the State Government. It is apparent that the government is not at all keen on having to follow its own policies.

The outcome of the appeal, that was heard by three judges, will not be known for some time.

Meanwhile the Senate Inquiry into the Perth Freight Link finally tabled its report on the 3<sup>rd</sup> May. In short the inquiry concluded that the PFL was the wrong infrastructure project to solve the perceived problems and highlighted the ad hoc nature of the decision making and planning that has plagued the project. In a very interesting move the coalition Senators on the committee of inquiry did not produce a dissenting report to contradict these findings.

Did you know the campaign has its own Choir and they have made a recording of an original Wetland song written by our own Steve Hammond?

### We need you more than ever...

#### TIME

Helping us with our outreach stalls. No experience necessary. Phone Pam 0414966489

#### MONEY

If you can't help with time please help with money. Directly donate to our campaign. We will spend it on getting the word out and it will also help to fund our legal campaign.

- BSB: 633-000
  - account number: 144881521
- account name: save beeliar wetlands campaign

#### SKILLS

Your skills and donations can make a huge difference. We need:

- Printing donations: banners, flyers, envelopes, billboards
- Website designers/graphics designers/volunteer coordinator

Stay connected with our campaign news by joining Save Beeliar Wetlands Facebook page, sharing this with your friends and keep an eye on our website, it is being updated!

### Remember STOP ROE 8 and break the link to the Perth Freight Link.

*Felicity McGeorge*

#### Editor's note:

The Hon Albert Jacob MLA, Minister for the Environment; Heritage requested the opportunity to respond to the article in our last edition by Chris Tallentire, Shadow Environment Minister, concerning Roe 8. Later however, when copy was due, the matter was before the courts so the Minister was unable to comment as he requested.



## EDOWA's Assessment of the Draft Perth and Peel Green Growth Plan Strategic Impact Assessment and Strategic Conservation Plan

In December 2015, the Environmental Defenders Office Western Australia (EDOWA) released a White Paper on the Perth and Peel Green Growth Plan for 3.5 Million (PPGGP), including a review of Draft Strategic Impact Assessment reports and Strategic Conservation Plan. Here is a brief summary of their key findings.

First, the EDOWA concluded that there appears to be 'no actual, legally defined assessment of impacts on State environmental values (as separate from Matters of National Environmental Significance-MNES) associated with the draft PPGGP'. This is of concern as many new developments proposed in PPGGP would be referred to the EPA for assessment under Part IV of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986* (EP Act). This assessment should be consistent with guidelines and objectives established under the Act, the outcomes have legal status and can set enforceable conditions. The State Government adopted approach of proceeding with future development in Perth and Peel in accordance with an EPA advice issued under s.16(e) of the EP Act, does not provide the same legal rigour. This is because Section 16 advice is not subject to Ministerial appeals, requires no real consideration or approval by the Environment Minister and does not come with enforceable legal consequences.

Other key deficiencies in the PPGGP strategic assessment and conservation plan identified by the EDOWA include:

- Lack of baseline data on conditions and trends of biodiversity.
- The State Impact Assessment is not a lawful environmental impact assessment.
- The impact assessment fails to consider cumulative impacts from other approved developments in Perth and Peel outside the classes of actions. It does not include all environmental values in the region.

- Limited retention options and impact scenarios. Environmental impacts could have been further reduced through higher 'infill:greenfield' ratios.
- Lack of assessment of the effectiveness of existing conservation measures (statutes, policies and programs).
- Lack of clear requirements for adequate research and monitoring.
- Lack of adequate framework for determining management effectiveness.
- Lack of detail around implementation and lack of risk management analysis associated with implementation such as capacity, timing, enforcement and effectiveness of programs.
- Unclear and ill-defined governance, evaluation and enforcement arrangements.
- The Strategic Conservation Plan does not consider how adequate are the assumed protection measures outside Perth and Peel.
- Inconsistency between the Recovery Plan objectives for Carnaby's black cockatoos with the PPGGP Conservation Plan.
- Failure to meet the requirements of many clauses in the Terms of Reference adopted for the Strategic Assessment.
- Lack of sustainability assessment for the proposed 70% population growth.

The EDOWA concludes that the Commonwealth and the State Impact Assessment and MNES Plan are not ready for ministerial approval and need to be reviewed and expanded. The EDOWA recommends, the draft PPGGP is significantly modified and released for another public consultation.

For the full version of the White Paper contact the EDOWA on [edowa@edowa.org.au](mailto:edowa@edowa.org.au).

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

### PERTH'S URBAN FOREST

On 16 May, the Greens WA launched their plan for an urban forest for Perth. Over 200 people filled the State Library Theatre where Dr Noel Nannup spoke of the unbroken connection the Whadjuk-Noongar people have with the Swan Coastal Plain.

The Greens' Urban Forest Plan is a strategy to protect and restore our precious places to make us healthier and happier, and knit together the biodiversity and cultural fabric of our communities.

Please join us and share in the conversation about how we green our communities and make sure everyone lives within a short distance of a park or urban bushland.

Where: Mary Davies Library and Community Centre, Carnaby Hall 2, 17 Settlers Avenue **Baldivis**  
When: **Sunday 12 June 2016** - Please arrive 10am for a 10:30am start

Please share our Facebook event here  
<https://www.facebook.com/events/863385697124589/>

Find out more <http://greens.org.au/wa/wa2.0/perths-urban-forest>



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FREMANTLE**

**Sign up at  
[www.trybooking.com/193274](http://www.trybooking.com/193274)**

**9.00am - 1.00pm**

Includes morning tea, lunch and entertainment.

Cost \$14 per event, discounts for multiple-event registrations and for groups of 3 or more.



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THE URBAN BUSH TELEGRAPH



## Urban Bushland Council's Events

**WALK ALONG SWAN ESTUARY FORESHORE (BUSH FOREVER AREA 402)**

**Sunday 5 June 9.00am-10.30am**

**Meet at Matilda Bay foreshore, opposite an entry to UWA called Hackett Entrance 3.**

**Talk by David Knowles from Spineless Wonders:**

**THE IMPORTANCE OF THE MACROINVERTEBRATE BIOTA TO THE BANKSIA WOODLANDS  
ON THE SWAN COSTAL PLAIN**

**Wednesday 29 June 6.30pm at Conference Room 7, City West Lotteries House, West Perth**

**Talk by Kingsley Dixon from Curtin University:**

**WHAT IT MEANS TO LIVE IN A BIODIVERSITY HOTSPOT**

**Wednesday 24 August 6.30pm at Conference Room 7, City West Lotteries House, West Perth**

## 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

#### Office:

URBAN BUSHLAND COUNCIL WA Inc

Lotteries House 2 Delhi Street West Perth WA 6872

Ph 9420 7207 E-mail: [ubc@bushlandperth.org.au](mailto:ubc@bushlandperth.org.au)



Urban Bushland Council WA Inc



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

