

## RALLY PARTICIPANTS SHOW STRONG SUPPORT FOR THE 'HANDS OFF POINT PERON' CAMPAIGN

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

Having been given a conditional tick by the WA EPA, Federal Minister Greg Hunt recently gave it a tick and a further set of conditions. No surprise there. The next stage is an amendment to the Town Planning Scheme from reserve to urban and then publication of the Structure Plan along with, we are assured, the Mangles Bay Economic Study.

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

Hands Off Point Peron organised a very successful Save Pt Peron Family Picnic and Rally at the site in September. 1500 attended, enjoyed the music and entertainments. 40 seedlings were planted by children



Photo by D Jecks

who were photographed holding a sign saying "I planted this tree to help save Point Peron". Facebook shows the results at Hands Off Point Peron.

In response to Minister Hunt's decision on 3 October, Requests for Statements of Reasons were submitted. He had 28 days in which to respond and then we have another 28 days to re-respond. This takes us up to 27 December. Meantime the Greens are looking at a legal injunction.

As well questions have been asked of Cedar Woods and of Landcorp dealing with the implications of a \$2 company,

Cranford, now being the proponent. Who would cover the cost of expensive complications in this most complex marina project ever in WA? Since their answers were unsatisfactory, the State Ministers for Planning and Land have been alerted about the financial risks.

What you can do to help :

1. Ask any politicians you know - Why is the government committing itself to a \$2 company over a risky development like Mangles Bay? How much money would the State Government

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Photo by K Allen

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# Editorial

It is now two years since we held our Bush Forever Report Card Conference. But there has been precious little commitment from the Barnett Government to complete the implementation process for Bush Forever. The promised audit has commenced, but is slow and poorly resourced, and as yet there are no outcomes available to the community.

Scores of Bush Forever sites still have no conservation management authority assigned, and the 70 sites identified for management by the Department of Parks and Wildlife are still not yet transferred under the Land Administration Act to the Crown, and are not yet vested in the Conservation Commission. Many of these 70 - or is it most - do not yet have their initial capital works (fencing, gates, signage, access paths, initial weed control) carried out after acquisition by the WA Planning Commission. These irreplaceable public assets are being subject to urban encroachment, abuse and consequent degradation due to absence of on-ground protection and management. High profile Bush Forever sites are still being subject to totally inappropriate developments.

For example the federal Minister for the Environment Hon Greg Hunt, under the EPBC Act, recently approved the highly controversial Mangles Bay marina and Pt Peron canal development proposal. This proposal will carve out a chunk of the Pt Peron Bush Forever site in the

Rockingham Lakes Regional Park, an area of public land that was supposed to be set aside and conserved for its myriad of values. The canal development will bring in sea water close to the edge of the adjacent Bush Forever Area 358, the ~14 m deep freshwater Lake Richmond, Rockingham – a very very significant wetland.

**Its thrombolite community is unique: Lake Richmond contains the only known example of its type of critically endangered microbial community.**

The bacterial community that forms stromatolites and thrombolites is believed to have been responsible for generating the first atmospheric oxygen some 3.5 billion years ago, thereby making the biosphere of our planet Earth habitable for all other life. This is perhaps the most critical event in the Earth's history! It is thus unbelievable that Minister Hunt and State Environment Minister Jacob could even contemplate or allow this living museum of thrombolites to be put at risk of changed hydrology and seawater incursion and consequent death of the microbialites.

**What can you do?** Please visit the office of your local federal and state MPs and tell them that these unique thrombolites must not be put at risk and that the canal development at Pt Peron must not go ahead. See [www.bushlandperth.org.au/campaigns](http://www.bushlandperth.org.au/campaigns) and [www.handsoffpointperon.com](http://www.handsoffpointperon.com) for more information.



Photo by D Jecks



Photo by K Allen

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- be likely to make from selling off the crown land? How can the Liberal Party tear up an agreement between Robert Menzies and David Brand that the Cape is not to be used for residential or commercial development?
2. Questions will be asked at Cedar Woods AGM, 10 am Monday 10 November at Kings Park Reception Centre and there will be a rally outside before.
  3. 5.30pm 25 November outside Rockingham Council Hands Off Point Peron will be showing the banners before going inside to quiz Council.
  4. At 7.15pm 10 December at the Gary Holland Hall in Rockingham there will be a public meeting.
  5. Watch out for release of the Town Planning Scheme Amendment and the Structure Plan, maybe in December or else early next year. The Structure Plan will show how it's really a housing development hiding behind the label marina. Please make a submission. More info available from James Mumme: [jgmumme@live.com.au](mailto:jgmumme@live.com.au)



# Cockburn Wetlands Centre Celebrates 21 Years

By Phil Jennings

An Open Day was held recently at the Cockburn Wetlands Education Centre (CWEC) to celebrate 21 years of service to the community. The Centre opened in 1993 but its origins go back to the Farrington Road Dispute of 1984 in which a coalition of students, local residents and environmental activists opposed the efforts on the Melville and Cockburn Councils and the Main Roads to construct the Farrington Road extension through the pristine North Lake Wetlands. They lost that battle, but many of those involved resolved to fight on to protect our remaining wetlands through revegetation and environmental education. They formed the Wetlands Conservation Society in 1985 and it campaigned for a wetlands education centre at Bibra Lake. It won the support of the Cockburn Council and together they applied for Federal funding to build the Centre on the site of the old Cockburn Dog Pound (and a former dairy farm). Eventually their efforts were successful and construction began in July 1992 and the Centre opened for business in June 1993.

Since its inception, CWEC has been a community run operation. CWEC is managed by a Wetlands Officer (Denise Crosbie) who is funded by sponsors and grant income. The City of Cockburn has been the major sponsor and provides roughly half on the Centre's income. Lotterywest has also been a major source of funds, via large and small grants. Several large companies, including BHP Billiton and Alcoa have contributed much-needed funds for specific projects.

The Centre is governed by a Board which consists of nominated representatives of the core groups which are located at the Centre (Wetlands Conservation Society, Friends of CWEC and the Bibra Lake Scouts). Several other groups, including a church group and the Murdoch Branch of the Wildflower Society, also use the CWEC facilities on a regular basis.

Over the past 21 years CWEC has focused its efforts on landcare, environmental education and scouting. The landcare work has been aided by a large group of volun-



Photo by D Crosbie

*One of the restoration sites established in 2011.*

teers from the core groups and the local community. CWEC has established a nursery which has been ably managed by an honorary manager (Norm Godfrey) and this produces many local area native plants that are used in revegetation work. Over the past 20 years the CWEC staff and volunteers have planted more than 200,000 native plants in the North, Bibra and South Lake Reserves and have transformed barren, weed-infested paddocks into diverse wildlife habitat. They have also established a splendid waterwise garden to illustrate the values of local native plants. The Centre also has two seed production areas, one for wetland and another for dryland species.



Photo by D Crosbie

*'Dipnetting' is one of popular CWEC educational activities.*

CWEC's education program involves a wide range of activities, including school visits, vacation activities, night walks, bird watching events, open days and community outreach. CWEC works closely with the Bibra Lake Scouts and many of their activities are environmentally-based. The Native ARC wildlife rehabilitation centre is located nearby and CWEC collaborates with it in many educational projects.

The annual Wetland Management Conference has been held on World Wetlands Day for the past decade and it is



Photo by D Crosbie

*Norm Godfrey in CWEC nursery.*



(Continued from page 3)

recognized as the most successful event of its type in Australia. The CWEC staff and volunteers are also active on many Government and NGO Committees. CWEC provides a vast amount of environmental information free of charge to the community, governments and industry.

CWEC has much to celebrate on its 21<sup>st</sup> birthday and it is grateful to the City of Cockburn, Lotterywest and its other sponsors for the funding required to employ its core staff. Much of its success is due to the efforts of numerous volunteers whose efforts have been coordinated by the staff and have produced outstanding results in landcare and environmental education. Despite the looming threat to the local environment from the Roe Highway Extension, CWEC is looking forward to building on these foundations in the years ahead.



Photo by D Crosbie

CWEC volunteer Rex Sallur checking one of CWEC restoration sites.

## Freeway approval adds to Carnaby's cockatoo plight

Media release by the UBC and the Quinns Rocks Environmental Group Inc.

The Mitchell Freeway extension, recently given Commonwealth Government environmental approval, adds to threats facing the endangered Carnaby's black cockatoo say the Urban Bushland Council and Quinns Rocks Environmental Group.

"Regular counts show that the number of Carnaby's black cockatoos on the coastal plain around Perth is declining at an alarming 15% each year," said Urban Bushland Council WA President Mary Gray. "This means that these iconic birds are heading for extinction unless urgent action is taken by the Barnett government to end loss of habitat. Development and road extensions must be restricted to lands already cleared.

"The clearing of bushland for urban development and infrastructure is reducing food resources available for this endangered species.

"The extension of the Mitchell Freeway and Neerabup Road through bushland in and adjacent Neerabup National Park

Photo by M Owen



adds to the loss of habitat for the cockatoo and other species," she said.

The proposed freeway extension including construction of Neerabup Road between Connolly Drive and Wanneroo Road will involve clearing of over 134 hectares of bushland including potential roost trees and feeding grounds for Carnaby's cockatoo. The road proposal was recently given approval under the Commonwealth Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act. Carnaby's black cockatoo is listed as a threatened species under the Act, triggering the assessment that environmental groups commented on.

"Carnaby's cockatoo is a species in need of help. The continuing loss of habitat through urban land clearing and the removal of pine plantations that have been a food resource are significant threats to the survival of the species," Ms Gray said.

"The freeway extension is one of many projects that are clearing Carnaby's habitat. Added together the loss of habitat is disturbing and environmental laws have not been used to stop habitat loss.

"The purchase of bushland at Gingin to offset clearing for the Mitchell Freeway extension is proposed, but it does not add to habitat locally and overall we are seeing Carnaby's habitat diminish, hence there is a net loss. It is time to end this classic death of a thousand cuts." Ms Gray said.

The Urban Bushland Council and Quinns Rocks Environmental Group both call for urgent action to protect Carnaby's cockatoo and Neerabup National Park and adjoining bushland.

"Additions to Neerabup National Park have long been proposed but much of this is yet to be secured," said Quinns Rocks Environmental Group spokesman David Wake.

"It is critical that bushland be added to the national park and the corridor of bushland through to the coast be protected to retain some habitat for Carnaby's cockatoo and other wildlife into the future," he said. "This proposal for connectivity was recommended by government scientists at least 15 years ago."



# SPRING WALKS IN ELLIS BROOK RESERVE AND HARTFIELD PARK



Photo by J. Bowler

In September, the UBC hosted spring walks in Ellis Brook Reserve and in Hartfield Park. In the Ellis Brook Reserve, participants followed the Eagle View Trail and enjoyed a colourful display of wildflowers (see photos by John Bowler, Friends of Ellis Brook Reserve).

In the Hartfield Park, Greg Keighery (photo below) guided the participants along the walk, providing expert commentary on the conservation values of this reserve, one of the 297 Bush Forever sites, sites with recognised regionally significant plant communities.



Photo by M Owen



Photo by M Owen

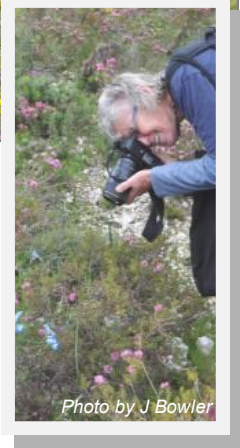


Photo by J Bowler

Left: Never too young to enjoy wildflowers. A mum with her daughter looking at *Eremaea* in Hartfield Park.



Photo by M Owen

Right: *Caladenia ferruginea* or Rusty Spider orchid (left) found in Hartfield Park.



Photo by M Owen



Photo by M Owen

*Thelymitra crinita* or Blue Lady orchid (right) and *Caladenia paludosa* or Swamp Spider orchid (left) found in Hartfield Park.



Photo by J Bowler



# Group News Group News Group News



Photo by T. Clark

Mrs Renata Milne with children Lukas and Nadia planting at Bungendore Park.

## Bungendore Park Management Committee Bungendore Park Tree Planting Day – July 27<sup>th</sup> 2014

The prospect of rain did little to dampen the enthusiasm of the 20 volunteers who turned up at Bungendore Park to plant seedlings which had been grown from seeds collected from the park. Some Scouts and their leader, members of the Wildflower Society, concerned residents and members of the Bungendore Park Management Committee and their families planted and fertilised 1000 seedlings in a degraded section of the park. Some rain did fall, but not enough to dampen our enthusiasm. We were surprised how quickly the seedlings were planted.

Thanks to the City of Armadale Bushcrew for pre-drilling the planting holes. An afternoon tea at the entrance on Howe Road was provided to allow participants to socialise after the planting.

Tony Clark



Photo by T. Clark

Volunteers enjoying afternoon tea after planting.

On Sunday 16th November, the Bungendore Park Management Committee will be holding its annual **Bungendore Bush Breakfast**, followed by the release of the new pamphlet *Frogs of Bungendore Park*, the *Vertebrate Fauna of Bungendore Park* report and the auction of original artworks used for the covers of the two new publications.

The breakfast will start at 7.30 am. Entry to Bungendore Park through Southern Hills Christian College car park, Admiral Road, Bedforddale. Costs for adults \$10 and children over 5 years \$5. For catering purposes phone bookings by 12th November to Kerry on 0498 1957 (leave message) or SMS 0402 327 393 (Surname, adult & children attending).



The artworks pictured on the cover of this new publication by the Bungendore Park Management Committee will be auctioned following the Bungendore Bush Breakfast on 16th November.

## Friends of Inglewood Triangle

On Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> October the Friends together with Conservation Volunteers (CV) and a group of young missionaries from the Church of Jesus Christ & the Latter Day Saints held a rubbish clean-up morning and a weeding session at Inglewood Triangle.

During 2014 Conservation Volunteers have organised several weeding teams at the Triangle, targeting Veldt Grass in particular. This most recent weeding session came about because the Church had approached CV to do some community work on a Saturday morning in the Inglewood area.

On the day and under the guidance of CV about 30 young enthusiastic weeders came along to tackle the



Photo by C. Allbeury





Photo by C Allbeury

Veldt Grass and Fumaria along the access pathways in particular.

After two and a half hours working in warm temperatures, the number of bags of weeds and rubbish stacked at the Eight Ave entrance was impressive.

Thanks to Conservation Volunteers for thinking of our precious piece of Banksia Woodlands and the young missionaries who enthusiastically came along to tackle the weeding. In conversation with some of the young 'weeders' we found that they were 'old' hands at doing conservation work in bushland around Perth and they enjoyed weeding and being informed about why our Banksia Woodland is so precious.

*Christine Allbeury*

## **The Environmental Weeds Action Network Presents the 2014 EWAN Weeds Forum**

### **ENVIRONMENTAL WEEDS: PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE**

**Friday, 28th November 8.30am to 4.45pm  
Kim Beazley Lecture Theatre Murdoch University**

Cost: \$15 payable at the door; \$5 parking vouchers for the 'red' and 'green' zones are available when you register.

Further information on 9331 3693 or email to [enquiries@environmentalweedsactionnetwork.org.au](mailto:enquiries@environmentalweedsactionnetwork.org.au)

**Underwood Avenue Bushland** and the 2nd Ordinary meeting of Convocation, University of WA.

Most of the business arising and speeches at the meeting focussed on the latest ranking of UWA, provision of on-line courses and funding, and how well the University is doing.

Later in the meeting a member of convocation Eric Lawson, rose and delivered a wonderful speech, seeking to move a motion that the University should not develop the Underwood Avenue site. He received a round of applause from what was estimated to be about 200 people.

Sadly, the Warden of Convocation (Adjunct Professor Warren Kerr AM) did not put the motion to the meeting. A member of the University staff then rose and made the following points:

- The Underwood Avenue site was once farm land and had been cleared already,
- There are a pile of files on this issue in his office,
- The University was offering many concessions, including preservation of some bushland on the site,
- The Carnaby's Cockatoo doesn't actually live on the site, it's just a feeding station.

In speaking to Eric after the meeting, Eric said he had been inspired by the Father's Day Bushwalk in Shenton Bushland.

*Marg Owen*

## **UWA Open Day Not So Open**

UWA held its Open Day on Sunday 10 August but it tried to close the door on free speech when supporters of the Underwood Bushland informed attendees of the Open Day about UWA's plans to destroy a vital habitat used by Black Cockatoos for roosting in Perth's western suburbs.

Friends of Underwood Bushland rallied on public land on the perimeter of the Open Day. They proceeded peacefully across the campus with display boards, leaflets and cockatoo outfits in an effort to inform the public about UWA's imminent plan to destroy most of the 34 hectares of bushland, despite the Federal Government having recommended in 2007 against UWA's proposal to build private housing on land it was given by the WA Government in 1904 for university purposes.

Shortly after arriving at the duck pond near Winthrop Hall, three cockatoo supporters including photographer Margaret Owen were escorted off the campus by UWA's private security guards, who told them: "You can't come onto University land handing out stuff that criticises the University because this is private land." The protestors were told to come no further than the bus-stop on Stirling Highway, but no reason was given for this restriction except protecting private property.

Soon the bushland protectors were joined by a UWA

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staff member, Dr Roderic Pitty, who lectures in political science. Together they returned to Winthrop Hall to discover why their free speech was being denied by UWA.

Back at Winthrop Hall the protestors were told by the security officer: "Free speech against UWA on UWA property is not permitted". They were informed that if they refused to move off the campus they would be charged with trespassing on private property.



*Underwood Avenue bushland supporter negotiating with UWA staff during the UWA's Open Day.*

During a discussion with the chief security officer, Dr Pitty was told that it would be better for the protestors to be sitting around a table talking with the University instead of criticising it. Ironically, UWA has refused to discuss with members of the public possible ways of protecting Underwood Avenue Bushland, such as a land swap with unused military land in Shenton Park.

The security officers were unable to call UWA administrators so that the protestors could verify that UWA is indeed opposed to free speech and criticism on campus. Dr Pitty believes that it is outrageous that UWA could have its security personnel tell members of the public that their rights to freedom of expression and association under articles 19 and 20 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights could be routinely denied.

Eventually after a long discussion the chief security officer changed his mind and permitted the protestors to continue with their peaceful leaf-letting. It appears that the default position of UWA was to deny free speech on campus, but when this was challenged the absurdity of trying to shut down public discussion during the Open Day became obvious to all.

There was a generally positive response to the Save Underwood Bushland leaflet from many visitors to UWA's Open Day. The leaflet points out that while UWA paid nothing for the bushland in 1904, it now wants to profit from commercially building on it while destroying the biodiversity of this bushland, which includes some of the best Jarrah woodland in Perth.

Many people were very interested to learn that UWA's proposed housing development would have few public

transport options for future residents, whereas the alternative development site in Shenton Park is close to a railway station.

Friends of Underwood Bushland are seeking a meeting with the local MHR, Julie Bishop, and would welcome a commitment by UWA to search for a solution to this issue that protects all of the black cockatoos' current habitat in the western suburbs, as well as free speech.

The results of the 2014 Great Cocky Count have revealed that Carnaby's Cockatoo numbers are declining by 15% per year, and that they will be extinct within 15 to 20 years, if we cannot make habitat for them and stop destroying their current habitat. Protecting the Underwood Bushland is essential for their survival in Perth.

*Roderic Pitty*

## Mother Nature Stories - Learn & Share

The following article and photos are reprinted with kind permission from *The Bushland Whistler (Edition 12)*, published by the Friends of Forrestdale. Text and photos by Bryony Fremlin.

### Ducks

Winter and spring is when the wetlands are full of water and wild ducks are nesting and raising their young. Of the nine species of duck that visit the wetlands around Forrestdale each year, the most common are the Pacific black duck, wood duck, Australian shelduck, grey teal, Australasian shoveler and white-eyed duck (this incidentally is a former, more appropriate, common name for this duck; its rather inelegant current name, hardhead, is—according to the Birdlife Australia website—in reference to the difficulty early taxidermists had processing the duck's head). Not so common in Forrestdale these days are musk, blue-billed, and pink-eared ducks. A rare visitor is the chestnut teal and rarer still, the freckled duck.

Judging by the number of ducklings seen this season, ducks have been breeding successfully; particularly black ducks and wood ducks. These two species are the most adaptable and commonly seen in the suburbs. Found throughout Australia (as well as in New Zealand, Indonesia and New Guinea) the black duck has learned to adjust to human interference and is more accepting of people than most native ducks. It adapts readily to artificial environments and is commonly seen in picnic areas near natural or man-made ponds in suburban parks.

Nesting sites for black ducks vary. Usually they choose to nest near water either in trees, in low vegetation or under bushes on the ground; but they sometimes pick sites in bushland far from water, which requires the parent to walk the newly hatched ducklings long distances to the nearest wetland. Where conditions are judged suitable and where they (often mistakenly) think they'll be safe, black ducks also occasionally nest in domestic gar-



dens and try to use the backyard swimming pool to raise their young. Obviously this approach is fraught with problems: insufficient food and persecution by cats and dogs are just some of the difficulties faced in these situations.

The black duck's diet is varied and includes aquatic plants, seeds, grasses and invertebrates.

Male and female black ducks look alike and are hard to tell apart in the wild.

That is not the case, however, with wood ducks where only the female has a pale stripe above and below the eye.

Wood ducks have a distinctive un-ducklike call; the female's call is described as a "long, drawn-out and mournful 'mew'." That of the male is similar but shorter. Grass is an important part of the wood duck's diet and they can often be seen grazing on lawns near suburban wetlands. Wood ducks nest in tree hollows.



*Mother black duck with her newly hatched ducklings.*



*Australia's rarest duck, the freckled duck. The slightly different colour on the base of their bills identifies these two birds as non-breeding males. In the breeding season this part of the male's bill turns crimson.*

The clutch size of black ducks and wood ducks is similar: between about 6 and 15 eggs, but 8 or 10 is the usual. Incubation time for both species is about 28 days.

### Threats to ducks (and ducklings)

The mortality rate of ducklings of all species is high and it is rare for a full clutch to reach maturity. Predation by

raptors and ravens, cats and foxes are just some of the threats ducklings face. Roads are another hazard; parent ducks sometimes have to walk their ducklings across busy roads to get from the nest site to the wetland.



*Photo by B Fremlin*

Adult ducks can have a tough time too. Predation by foxes, pollution, disease, destruction and drainage of wetland habitats and a drying climate all take their toll on native ducks.

A less dramatic, but nonetheless serious threat to the black duck species is hybridisation with a related, introduced species, the mallard.

A further risk to the health of waterfowl and their wetland homes is the well-meaning but misguided practice of feeding artificial food such as bread to ducks and other waterbirds. It is always tempting to feed the ducks at a park, but doing so can be harmful in several ways.

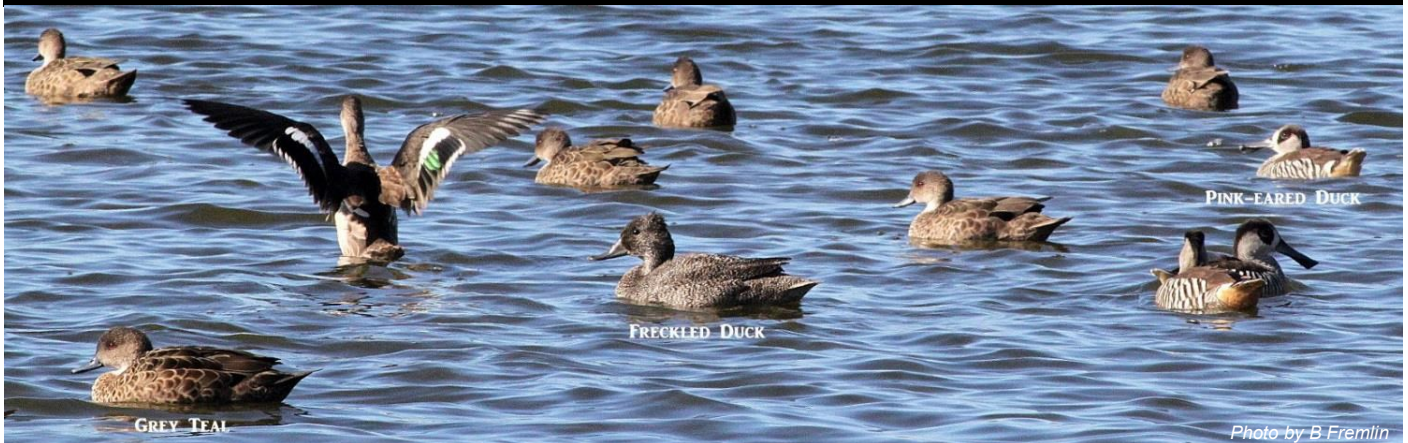
Bread and other carbohydrate-rich foods don't contain the nutrients wild birds need. If native waterbirds are fed these foods regularly, they learn to rely on easy handouts and are less likely to forage for their natural foods. As a consequence, they become both overweight and malnourished at the same time. This applies also to young growing birds.

Additional issues related to feeding bread to wild ducks are pollution and disease. Not all bread thrown to ducks is eaten. A lot is left in the water to rot, which pollutes the wetland. And an unnatural diet of bread leads to an abnormal increase in faecal matter which harbours bacteria and can result in outbreaks of the fatal disease, avian botulism.

### Duck shooting

An additional threat to ducks and other waterfowl in other Australian states is recreational duck shooting, still legal in Victoria (where the practice is predominant), South Australia, Tasmania and the Northern Territory. Because of the cruel nature of the sport and the unacceptable toll on waterfowl numbers (including rare, protected species such as freckled ducks), three states—Western Australia (since 1990), New South Wales (1995) and Queensland (2005)—have banned duck shooting as a sport. It has never been allowed in the ACT.





The RSPCA, the Coalition Against Duck Shooting and others have waged long hard battles in Victoria to try to get the practice stopped once and for all. But despite a majority (87%) of Victorians wanting a ban on recreational duck shooting, politicians continue to pander to the minority (0.4%) hunting fraternity.

In fact the Victorian government is doing its best to promote duck shooting and it is going about it in several ways. To encourage juniors (aged 12 - 17) “to experience game hunting”, a new licence in Victoria has been introduced specifically for juniors. The ‘Provisional Game Licence’ (PGL), issued free of charge, allows juniors to hunt ducks for one season. To make things easier still, juniors aren’t at this stage required to sit for the Waterfowl Identification Test (WIT). If after one season they decide they like the experience of killing animals and wish to continue, they can then purchase the full Game Licence and are required to pass the WIT. The proviso that juniors holding a PGL “must be under the direct supervision of an adult” while hunting means little. Teenagers don’t typically go out with their mates under supervision and policing such things is notoriously difficult.

To further promote hunting, a 14-day licence—the ‘Non-resident of Australia Game Licence’—has been introduced in Victoria, “to facilitate access to game hunting for international visitors and support the commercial hunting and guiding industry”. As with the PGL, people applying for this licence do not have to pass the WIT, and the proviso again is that, while hunting, licence holders must be supervised. This too is open to abuse.

Whilst Victorian legislation has relaxed the rules for hunters, it has tightened them for animal rescuers. Under new legislation, people who attend duck shootings to relieve the suffering of wounded birds and to raise awareness of what goes on at these events are no longer allowed within 25 metres of the water’s edge. This exclusion zone applies to anyone not holding a game licence and continues each day for the entire 12-week duck shooting season. Transgressors can incur hefty fines, which have recently tripled.

Eleven species of Australian waterfowl are classified as ‘game’ birds. Only a few duck and goose species cannot be lawfully shot: the blue-billed, musk, freckled and burdekin ducks, the Cape Barren goose and the two species of pygmy geese are fully protected by law. Other types of waterfowl,

swans, coots, herons etc., are also protected and cannot legally be shot.

The freckled duck occurs only in Australia, it is one of the world’s rarest waterbirds and Australia’s rarest. Its estimated entire population is 20,000. During each duck shooting season numerous freckled ducks and other protected species are shot illegally. In March 2013, for example, during a killing spree involving between 100 and 150 shooters in the remote Box Flat wetland in north-west Victoria, approximately 2,000 game and non-game birds were slaughtered in one day; over one hundred were freckled ducks. A similar incident occurred at the same place the year before. Not one of the shooters involved has been brought to justice.

Undoubtedly there are duck shooters who abide by the law, correctly identify and shoot only game species and stick to the daily bag limit of 10 birds. But too many do not. Unacceptable numbers of protected species—already struggling from loss of much of their breeding habitat—are routinely shot each season and bag limits exceeded.

Besides the needless killing of waterfowl—be they protected by law or not—an additional distressing aspect of duck shooting is the inevitable suffering inflicted on the birds: it is estimated that for every duck killed outright, another is wounded or maimed. Each season, incalculable numbers of birds suffer this fate and because only a fraction are found and cared for or euthanized, most wounded birds are left to die horrible deaths.

Various justifications for duck shooting are cited; mainly that hunting contributes to the economies of rural towns, and that man has always had an instinct to hunt and should therefore continue to hunt.

The counter argument is that rural economies could be sustained just as effectively by non-violent pastimes associated with eco-tourism.

Hunting has indeed been a human instinct for a very long time and began with primitive man as a means to obtain food to survive. Early hunting methods using simple weapons gave the quarry a sporting chance and so modest numbers of animals were killed overall.

Nowadays hunting is mostly for amusement and today’s methods are very different. Rifles and shotguns and hi-tech decoy devices enable the slaughter of waterfowl on an immense scale.



# WA's Bushland – Ours to protect

Seminar and Workshop

8am to 4pm Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2014

Kim Beazley Lecture Theatre, Murdoch University

Organised by the Wildflower Society through its charitable fund, the Bushland Conservation Fund. The morning Seminar focuses on presenting the many values of WA's unique bushland. The afternoon Workshop will critically examine WA's native vegetation legislation and its application.

## PROGRAM

### Seminar: Value of WA's unique bushland 8am to 1.15pm

8am	Registration	
8.20 to 8.30	Welcome	Brian Moyle past President Society
8.30 to 9.15	The world's natural vegetation	Laco Mucina Winthrop Professor UWA
9.15 to 10.00	What is WA's natural vegetation?	Greg Keighery Senior Principal Research Scientist
10.30 to 11.00	Morning Tea	
11.00 to 11.30	WA's Natural Wildflower Heritage	Bronwen Keighery Botanist Educator
11.30 to 12.00pm	Natural Vegetation and WA Economy	Mark Andrich Honorary Research Fellow UWA
12.00 to 12.45	Protection of Natural Vegetation	Gary Middle Associate Professor Curtin University
12.45 to 1.30	LUNCH	

### Workshop: Is native vegetation land clearing legislation working in WA?

Chair	Bronwen Keighery Chair Bushland Conservation Fund Steering Committee
1.30 to 2.15	Is native vegetation land clearing legislation working in WA?
2.15 to 3.45	A critical examination the state of native vegetation protection in WA 2014 and beyond. Questions for this session will be distributed on registration.
3.45 to 4.00	Summing up and afternoon tea.

Associated with seminar/workshop we are running several awareness raising activities. These activities focus on Mooja the Western Australian Christmas Tree (*Nuytsia floribunda*). See below details regarding The Great 2014 Mooja Tree Hunt.

**Registration and cost:** Attendance costs are: \$140 per waged person, and \$80 for Society members and unwaged. This includes morning and afternoon tea, lunch and a copy of the proceedings (synopsis presentations, workshop questions, Mooja activities). To register, complete the registration form available via <http://members.ozemail.com.au/~wildflowers/Seminar%20rego%20221114.pdf>. Enquiries - email [wildflowers@ozemail.com.au](mailto:wildflowers@ozemail.com.au) or ring 9383 7979. **Registrations close 18 November.**

## JOIN the THE GREAT 2014 MOOJA TREE HUNT

A celebration WA's Heritage of Wildflowers sponsored by the Wildflower Society of WA (Inc.). A thirty day Mooja Munzee hunt is to be launched on Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> November from 10 to 11am (launch 10.30) alongside the Mooja MUNZEE Tree at Wireless Hill.



Mooja, or the WA Christmas Tree (*Nuytsia floribunda*) is only wild in the Southwest of Australia. As the name suggests it flowers around Christmas time and is the largest mistletoe in the world.

Mooja flowers



Wireless Hill Mooja in the City of Melville

Twenty Mooja trees in the Perth area have been marked with a QR code. See how many you can find! The first 20 people to find 10 of these Mooja Trees will be given a young Mooja tree and Mooja Information Pack. There is a mystery prize for the 10<sup>th</sup> person to find all 20 trees.

**TO JOIN THE HUNT**

You need a QR code reader app on your smart phone and the MUNZEE app (go to [www.munzee.com/download/](http://www.munzee.com/download/) its FREE).

**COME TO THE LAUNCH AND WE WILL SHOW YOU HOW**

For more information contact Bronwen from the Society on 0418 814 028 OR phone Society Office 9383 7979 (messages when office not open) OR E-mail [wildflowers@ozemail.com.au](mailto:wildflowers@ozemail.com.au).



# 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

### UBC Christmas Gathering and our 21st Birthday

Wednesday 3 December 5.30 to 7.30 pm

at National Trust, the Old Observatory - Metcalf Room, 4 Havelock St, West Perth

Join us for a Christmas gathering and celebration of our highlights over the past 21 years.

### UBC Annual General Meeting

Guest speaker TBA

Tuesday 3 March 2015 6.00 to 9.00 pm

at Lotteries House, 2 Delhi St, West Perth

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 - 8th December 2014

### PERTH'S BUSHLAND BIRTHDAY & PERPETUAL CALENDAR

\$10 plus \$2 postage

Available by mail order from the UBC office.

### Office:

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Web site: [www.bushlandperth.org.au](http://www.bushlandperth.org.au)



Urban Bushland Council WA Inc



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

