

## Orchids, Soil and Disturbance

By Pavel Waryszak

Fifteen enthusiasts of citizen science came on 16<sup>th</sup> of August 2015 to Anstey Keane Bush Forever Site (number 342) to participate in the citizen science project “Orchids, Soil and Disturbance” researching how disturbance affects soil quality and plant diversity. The event was carried out in the form of a bushland hike, led by Pavel Waryszak (the president of Murdoch Branch) and David James (Friends of Forestdale lake). The “Orchids, Soil and Disturbance” event was part of the National Science Week 2015 which is part of the nationwide celebration of the science. As Year 2015 is the International Year of Soil all Australians were encouraged to get their hands dirty. National Science Week event is carried out each year around August and aims at sending a positive message about the impact that science has on our society and our world.

Participants were assigned to five teams. Each team collected one soil sub-sample from three different locations:

### 1. Invasive plants only



### 2. Invasive and natives



### 3. Orchids and natives only



The content of total Nitrogen, Phosphorus and heavy metals such as Cadmium, Molybdenum, Cobalt, Selenium, Lead, Chromium and Arsenic in the soil were tested. In the future, we will also have an access to data on soil microbes from these sites from the *Microblitz* Team based at University of Western Australia. Soil chemistry results are already available online at <http://www.sites.google.com/site/orchidsoil/disturbance/data>.

The concentration of heavy metals in the soil decreased with increased distance from the invasive site. One can rethink the role of weeds in disturbed areas. The invasive species were the only plants that could tolerate a high soil disturbance level along the busy Anstey Road. The concentration of the heavy metals was relatively high but reached no dramatic level (600 mg/kg) that would require an ecological

investigation according to “Assessment Levels for Soil, Sediment and Water” guideline issued in 2010 by the Department of Environment and Conservation. Nonetheless as low as 25µm/dL of lead (Pb) in blood can already lead to nausea, vomiting & encephalopathy (headache, seizures, ataxia, obturation).

Not surprisingly total Nitrogen and total Phosphorus levels (see Figures on page 10) were the highest in the most disturbed soil as these vital micro-nutrients, that build plant’s DNA and cells, are being distributed across much wider spectrum of living organisms in the undisturbed ecosystem. Additionally, high nitrogen and phosphorus soil content is toxic to most of the native Australian plants that typically thrive on poor and weathered soil.

“Orchids, Soil & Disturbance” event attracted 15 participants who spent nearly five hours of hiking, soil sampling, flora and fauna learning with the representatives from Wildflower Society of WA Murdoch Branch, Friends of Forrestdale Lake, Weed Society and

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# Editorial

Community Friends Groups are endlessly concerned about the failure of the state government to complete the acquisition of Bush Forever sites and to manage them for conservation. The Anstey-Keane Damplands and Harrisdale Swamp Bush Forever Areas are classic examples. Unfenced blocks not yet acquired are providing access for irreparable damage by unauthorised off road vehicles, trail bikes, hoons, horse riders, and massive rubbish dumping. This is a serious 'off road' social problem also evident in other sites that needs to be addressed by authorities.

To confront this, the UBC has prepared a 'Call for action' by government to complete the CAR (Comprehensive, Adequate & Representative) reserve system for the Perth Metropolitan Region as planned in the Bush Forever process. Bush Forever was introduced by the Liberal government in 2000 and was to be fully completed by 2010. It is now 2015 and still is far from complete. Many Bush Forever sites have been acquired by the WAPC, but have not yet been transferred to the conservation estate and have no conservation land managers assigned and adequately funded.

These sites are suffering irreparable but readily preventable damage, as well as lost public benefits. These precious public assets, rich in biodiversity found in no other region, deserve the very best protection, care and public appreciation as was intended. Their intrinsic biodiversity values, their benefits for public health and enjoyment, urban landscape cooling, their value for education of children, and their huge potential for tourism are being ignored by the Barnett government. This is unacceptable and must not continue.

The source of funds for acquisition of sites and initial capital works are there in the Metropolitan Region Improvement Trust Fund (MRIF), but we now understand that Treasury interference is blocking this appropriate expenditure by the WAPC.

Community members are urged to visit their local state members of parliament to promote our UBC Call for action on Bush Forever as shown on page 4 and their local example of inadequately protected or managed Bush Forever Area.

This calls for a whole of government package to properly fund and complete Perth's conservation reserve system. The Barnett government did not leave the roof off the Perth Arena when the cost blew out, and it generously funded the new Perth Stadium. It is time to stop the highly destructive and extremely expensive infrastructure projects such as the Roe 8 highway through the Beeliar wetlands, and the Water Corporation's proposal for a sewerage main in Anstey-Keane Damplands. Completion of Bush Forever is much less expensive and much healthier than Roe 8 and the Perth Freight Link.

# IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO STOP ROE 8

# RALLY

## SUN 22 NOV 9-11AM

## BIBRA LAKE

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#### 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.

#### NEWSLETTER ITEMS

Compiled by: Renata Zelinova

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

Copy deadline - 10 January 2016

# Munday Swamp Threatened by Airport Rail Link Project

By Kevin McLean

Munday Swamp is one of the outstanding wetland areas at Perth Airport. It consists primarily of closed paperbark forest (*Melaleuca raphiophylla*) over a clay/peat substrate. It is sometimes referred to as Poison Gully Swamp because Poison Gully creek once fed directly into the swamp and would have been one of its major sources of water in the wetter months. It is over a kilometre long, though it is much less wide, and it runs roughly parallel to Abernethy Road near High Wycombe. It is quite a unique place to visit, being very overgrown and dominated by giant paperbarks, some of which have blown over leaving masses of exposed roots. It is an outstanding place for birds – both waterbirds and bush birds – and tortoises are common in the wetlands. It also has a great many snakes in residence.

The Aboriginal cultural significance of Munday Swamp is officially recognised and its obvious potential as a hunting ground for water birds and tortoises make it easy to see how it could well have been heavily utilised by Aborigines for thousands of years. Just to the east of the Swamp there are archaeological sites providing testament to this presence.

After Perth Airport was privatised in 1997, the very first Perth Airport Master Plan (1999) included Munday Swamp and its surrounds in a large Conservation Precinct (Precinct 7). This Precinct was intended to be the leaseholder's concession to environmental protection given that it was understood by all bidders for the lease that the site would come with significant environmental constraints owing to the outstanding natural values of the remnant bushland and wetlands on airport land.

Conservation Precincts 7 together with Conservation Precinct 5 – located towards the airport's south eastern boundary – also appeared in the five-yearly Perth Airport Master Plans for 2004 and 2009. These areas totalled about 310 hectares and there was another 39 hectare "infrastructure only" zone set aside to the west of Horrie

Miller Drive. The 2009 Perth Airport Master Plan and its associated Perth Airport Environment Strategy were still singing the fulsome praises of the 2 Conservation Precincts and how they best represented the airport's natural heritage.

However, by the time the 2014 Perth Airport Master Plan was released, gone were the Conservation Precincts altogether. Why? Well the advent of a Commonwealth Government that made it pretty clear it viewed the natural environment as nothing more than an impediment to progress might have helped. In fact, it might have helped a great deal. And one of the consequences of this disgusting cynicism is that Perth Airport Pty Ltd recently released a Major Development Plan which envisages dumping potentially huge amounts of spoil from the Perth Airport Rail Link tunnel (and associated stations) to the immediate east of Munday Swamp – right in the area where the aforementioned archaeological sites associated with the Swamp are found and in an area that was formerly part of Conservation Precinct 7. The other option for a major spoil dump is to the immediate south of Munday Swamp. Neither are acceptable.

Not only is this proposed dumping appallingly disrespectful towards Aboriginal heritage but there is also potential for sediment from the spoil (which is from deep below the ground) to end up passing into the wetlands. It is a huge wetland for a reason and in a wet year there is considerable flooding in the whole area – thereby making the movement of sediment a very real risk.

Of course, the Airport Rail Link is a WA State Government initiative and Perth Airport will not be paying for it. So does the WA Government care about Aboriginal heritage? Does the Commonwealth Government care about Aboriginal heritage? Perth Airport is becoming a case study in how environmental and heritage standards can be degraded over time – and it is nothing for which contemporary Australians can be proud.

## Letting a White Elephant Loose in a China Shop

The current State of the Roe 8 is, well, anybody's guess. The Premier and The Minister for Transport seem more confused and at odds by the day, the transport and motoring industry are seriously aggrieved by recent developments and the finance for the project is in jeopardy. The only absolutely clear aspect of the project is the overwhelming opposition.

Having grown from the Wetlands Conservation Society and Save Beeliiar Wetlands there is now an alliance of 31 conservation and community groups working together to stop this roads in its tracks.

Save Beeliiar Wetlands lead an amazing contribution of alliance groups in the Freo Festival Parade with an all-time record number of people for a float, up around 2000! The colours, the enthusiasm and the passion spilled out into the crowd who joined the chants. In the following week I was chatting with an acquaintance about the parade and they spontaneously said "those blue people were very loud"! The parade was also Ellie

the Roe 8 White Elephant's debut into public and she has since been out and about contributing to Col and Dean's shemozzle of a project.

There is a massive amount of work going on behind the glitz and glamour with the Supreme Court case only weeks away and members keeping up a strong flow of letters to the papers and dealing with social media.

It is really impressive the way individuals have come forward to work in whatever way they are comfortable and able, and together the synergy has been spectacular. A whole community has developed, brought into being, inadvertently of course, by obstinate politicians. There is even a campaign choir! Take that Colin Barnett!

Now the serious business, the next event. I ask everyone to make an extra effort to get to this one because the outcome of this campaign will undoubtedly flow onto our other bushland battles. See you there!

# BUSH FOREVER - UBC's CALL FOR ACTION

Bush Forever is a world class plan in Australia's only global biodiversity hotspot but its implementation is incomplete. This unfinished business is putting our irreplaceable natural assets of unique flora, fauna and vegetation systems at risk. Bush Forever is a huge initiative for protection of our biodiversity in the Perth region and now is the time to complete it.

Bush Forever has three major components:

1. 287 Bush Forever Areas as shown on the MRS map
2. Significant ecological linkages and potential linkages
3. Locally significant natural areas: Local Biodiversity Strategies by each LGA

The State Government's Bush Forever plan establishes a CAR (comprehensive, adequate and representative) conservation 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. It comprises 287 Bush Forever Areas and has facility for additions.

It also provides for regionally and locally significant ecological linkages connecting these regionally significant natural areas together with locally significant natural areas. These linkages are essential in our fragmented landscape, and without them biodiversity will decline markedly.

At the Local Government level, the Bush Forever plan includes support for the preparation and implementation of local bushland plans or strategies by each LGA in the Perth Metropolitan Region.

## GOVERNMENT ACTION REQUIRED

### Initial capital works

For all sites already owned by the WAPC, using Metropolitan Region Improvement Trust funds (MRIF) immediately conduct initial capital works required (dieback mapping, fencing, gates, signage, security and wildlife cameras, initial weed control etc) to establish them as conservation areas.

### Secure all sites in the conservation estate in 1 year

Acquire (via MRIF) or secure all Bush Forever sites and nominated additional sites and transfer them to the conservation estate under the Land Administration Act as 'A' class Nature Reserves for the purpose of nature conservation and passive recreation, with no other uses permitted. Clearing should be expressly prohibited.

Completion of this process (under WAPC) in one year by a special unit of properly resourced staff. Notably there has been no audit released on Bush Forever implementation despite the promise by the Planning Minister December 2012.

All government agencies and utilities must be legally bound to respect the conservation estate and revise their operational plans so that there are no incursions and impacts on the network of Bush Forever Areas, local reserves and ecological linkages.

### Assign land managers

For each unmanaged Bush Forever site, assign a suitable land manager. For example Burns Beach bushland and Anstey-Keane Damplands have suffered preventable degradation due to unmanaged parts and multiple land managers. Past proposals require review and it is suggested that for each sub-region, workshops be held with key stakeholders (LGA's, local community Friends groups, UBC, DPAW, DOP and relevant government landholders) to determine the best management arrangements and land manager.

### Operational budget for management and promotion

For each unmanaged Bush Forever Area, prepare a comprehensive management plan with budget including weed and feral animal control, maintenance and security costs, surveys (eg flora, fauna, weed, dieback mapping, condition mapping), local promotion, education and awareness raising. Some LGA's such as Cambridge, Wanneroo and Gosnells have done this for lands vested in them.

### Mandatory Local Biodiversity Strategies

Bush Forever recognises the importance of retaining and protecting local natural areas to support the network of regionally significant bushland. To achieve this, prepare and implement Local Biodiversity Strategies (LBS) according to an endorsed methodology. This must be made mandatory under planning law via new planning guidelines.

A full team of professional support staff in WALGA to be employed to continue facilitating implementation, including establishment of ecological linkages, for each LGA. Only the Shire of Mundaring has completed the process with their LBS included in their Local Planning Strategy and Scheme.

### No new transport corridors in Bush Forever sites

No new transport corridors - especially roads - to be permitted in Bush Forever sites.

### No mining or mineral exploration in Bush Forever sites

Mineral exploration and mining to be legally prohibited in all Bush Forever sites.

### Introduce a legally binding State policy for the establishment of ecological linkages (greenways) and their inclusion in regional and local land use planning frameworks

Environmental and land use planning guidelines require the identification of ecological linkages. The new State policy and guidelines need to define an effective ecological linkage (using local native species), and provide a framework for their identification and recognition in land use planning schemes as an addition to the existing land use provision.

### Promotion and celebration of our unique bushland

Introduce a public education program to give the community and generations to come an appreciation of the beauty and wonder of our natural bushland. The Swan Coastal

Plain is a critical part of the Southwest Australian ecoregion, Australia's only global biodiversity hotspot, rich in endemic species and a centre of plant diversity.

Tourism statistics show that most international and interstate tourists visit Perth, but not regional areas. Bush Forever sites are ideally located to showcase our unique bushland to this increasingly important economic market. Additionally, recent research into the health benefits of natural areas to adults and particularly to children, combined with the known positive effects of bushland on urban heat sinks, provide compelling reasons why Bush Forever areas must be not only protected, but understood, appreciated, promoted and celebrated.

### Public report on the status of implementation of Bush Forever

Prepare an annual public report on the status of Bush Forever, providing public accountability for the implementation of the plan as well as the ongoing management and uses of our unique natural heritage, one of the most important assets of the Western Australian public estate.

Examples of Bush Forever Areas (BFA), reserved 'Parks and Recreation' in the Metropolitan Region Scheme that are threatened by proposals for development or lack of adequate management:

**BF 355 & BF358** - proposal for marina development encroaching into BFA reserved for Parks and Recreation. Submissions closed 13 November on MRS Amendment to facilitate this development. For more information go to <http://www.handsoffpointperon.com/>

**BF244** - by Roe 8 extension (see page 2-3)

**BF312** - by High School proposal to encroach into Bold Park

**BF310** - by Scarborough Beach Redevelopment (see page 7-8)

**BF325** - by Ocean Reef Marina

**BF383** - Prescribed burned section of bushland (November 2015) that is surrounded by extensive clearing for freeway extension and road upgrades

**BF342** - by a sewage main proposal

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

### ENGAGING THE COMMUNITY IN WILDLIFE RESEARCH AND CONSERVATION - REFLECTIONS ON THE USE OF CITIZENS SCIENTISTS TO MONITOR QUENDA (ISOODON OBESULUS FUSCIVENTER) AND RAKALI (HYDROMYS CHRYSOGASTER)

**When: Friday 4th December**

**Time: 12-12.45pm**

**Venue: Tondirrup/Nambung meeting rooms at the Keiran McNamara Conservation Science Centre, Department of Parks and Wildlife, Kensington**

Free event, no RSVP required

### New funding opportunity open COMMUNITY CAPABILITY GRANTS

Available through the State Natural Resource Management Program and supported through Royalties for Regions., with \$24 million funding commitment over three years.

Two funding options are available:

1 Large projects of more than \$10,000 and up to \$1 million with a delivery timeframe of up to two and half years. Applications close **18 January 2016**.

2 Small projects between \$1,000 and \$10,000 with a time frame of up to 12 months. Applications close on **30 May 2016, unless fully subscribed.**

Online applications now open at [nmr.wa.gov.au](http://nmr.wa.gov.au)

### The Extinction Crisis for Carnaby's Cockatoo – fight for survival

The Urban Bushland Council is proud to present two experts speaking on aspects of Carnaby's Cockatoo and their fight for survival into the future.

Christine Groom completed her doctoral thesis '*Roost site fidelity and resource use by Carnaby's cockatoo, *Calyptrorhynchus laritostriis*, on the Swan coastal plain, Western Australia*'.

Christine will talk about 'Carnaby's Cockatoos in the urban landscape of Perth. How they use the landscape and how we can help to ensure they keep visiting.'

By putting tracking devices on 24 injured and then recovered Carnaby's cockatoos, Christine discovered many interesting things about them. For example on consecutive nights, on returning to a roost site, the cockatoos travelled an average 7.0 plus or minus 5.8km between roosts and they were capable of flying up to 70kms between roosts when migrating.

Our second speaker is Dr Geoff Barrett. As we have seen from the results of the 2015 Great Cocky Count, Carnaby's cockatoo continue to decline at an alarming rate, so the continuing loss of bushland food and pines is having a devastating effect.

Geoff will speak to this and on the Population Viability Analysis for Carnaby's Cockatoo.

**At City West Lotteries House, 2 Delhi Street  
West Perth at 5.30pm for refreshments before  
6pm start on Tuesday 8 December**

**The UBC would appreciate a donation to assist the UBC  
in our fight to keep cockatoos into the future**

## Waterbird Conservation Group

### Snake in a Can

I received a text message from my Mum on a Friday afternoon saying "Is it normal for a snake to go into a discarded drink can and wiggle around?"

After getting a little bit more information about the tiger snake in the can I went into rescue mode and decided the snake needed immediate help. I drove down to the wetlands, grabbed my snake rescue gear out of my car and jumped over the fence to have a closer look. I moved the snake and can into my snake bag to contain the snake when it was freed and tried to gently pull the snake out of the can with my snake tongs. It wouldn't budge and the flies were starting to gather around.



I had to think quickly as time was getting on, so I rang Mieke at the Armadale Reptile Centre and she told me to hurry over. We packed the snake into the car and drove to the centre. There Klaas bravely and slowly manoeuvred the snake's scales to bring the snake out of the can whilst I held the tail. Just as the head was almost free of the can I dropped the tail and Klaas gently shook the can until the snake dropped into the bag.

The next step was to place the snake's head in a plastic clear tube and assess the damage. I tipped the snake onto the ground, which it wasn't too happy about, and after a few strikes at the tongs Klaas placed the tube over its head. We then picked it up safely and Kristy gave it an injection for pain and I rubbed betadine over the areas damaged. Thankfully there was only minor damage to its



Tiger snake was given a fluid injection after being freed from a can and examined for skin damage.

scales from rubbing on the can and no open wounds. It was clearly dehydrated when I found it so Kristy also gave it a fluid injection. Satisfied that they had done all they could to help it, the team put the Tiger snake back into the bag and told me it would be okay to be released back into the reserve. So we left the centre to release it back to freedom.



Once it was released the Tiger snake took a few moments to realise that it was safe before taking off into the grass near the waters edge. If it hadn't been rescued it would have perished in the sun.

So if you see a can in your bushland, stop and pick it up but check inside first for animals before crushing for recycling. We think the snake went into the can to either have a drink or eat a frog.

*Danielle Cliff*

### A busy planting season at Lake Claremont

Tucked away in the western suburbs of Perth, Lake Claremont is a Conservation Category Wetland and Bush Forever site that provides an important ecological linkage between Bold Park, the Indian Ocean and the Swan River.

The combined efforts of the **Friends of Lake Claremont** (FOLC), the Town of Claremont and a host of enthusiastic volunteers have led to a flurry of activity in the Lake Claremont area throughout the 2015 planting season. Over the season an impressive total of 32,275 native seedlings have been planted.

# Group News Group News Group News

This year the focus has been on two major projects: (1) the restoration of over 1/3 hectare of the wetland buffer zone to enhance the wildlife habitat and protect the lake bed (funded with a Swan River Trust ALCOA Landcare Program [SALP] grant and a Caring for our Country Community Environment Grant ); and (2) the transformation of a ½ hectare area of degraded land located near the north-east corner of the Lake – site of a rubbish dump in the 1960s - into Banksia woodland (funded with a State Natural Resource Management grant). The long-term goal of the second project is to provide habitat for Carnaby's Black Cockatoos.

The Friends of Lake Claremont keep a record of the number of volunteers and the hours they contribute to planting projects. Over 1000 volunteers have participated in the 2015 planting season in a variety of sessions. These have included students from local primary and secondary schools and universities, corporate groups, the Conservation Volunteers and last but not least, large numbers of community volunteers and their families – many of whom are members of social and environmental welfare groups in the Asian region.

There have been a number of significant planting days, including: (1) Sunday 26 July, National Tree Day, when a total of 120 volunteers from the Tzu Chi Buddhist Foundation combined with employees from Mitsui & Co Ltd and local people to plant 1500 seedlings; (2) Saturday 8 August, National Student Volunteer Week, when 70 students from Notre Dame, University of Western Australia, Curtin and Murdoch Universities (including exchange students from the US) combined to plant 2,500 seedlings in wet and windy weather; and, (3) Saturday, 15<sup>th</sup> August, Indian Independence Day, when members of the Shah Satnam Ji Green S Welfare Force Wing planted 1265 seedlings.



*The two photos show members of the Shah Satnam Ji Green S Welfare Force Wing (the group that contributed most to the 2015 planting season at Lake Claremont) amongst the seedlings to be planted, recreating Banksia woodland..*

*Photos by H Hardisty*



We would like to mention that over the past few years members of the Shah Satnam Ji group have contributed enormously to our community. This year as many as 30 members have worked tirelessly on six occasions, planting a total of almost 10,000 seedlings – nearly one-third of the winter planting season total.

The large-scale revegetation enterprise that has taken place in the Lake Claremont wetland area during the 2015 planting season has taken a high degree of organisation, commitment and generosity on the part of many individuals and organisations. Thanks to everyone!

To date, the vast majority of seedlings are thriving .

*Rose Senior*

## Friends of Trigg Bushland

### Esplanade Extension will destroy dunes

The Friends of Trigg Beach takes issue with the Metropolitan Redevelopment Authority's claim that the Scarborough Beach Master Plan's proposed northern and southern extensions to The Esplanade will not adversely affect the coastal environment.

The MRA's claim that the road extensions and the new intersections are only affecting land of "low conservation value" reveals the organisation's inexcusable ignorance of the importance of the coastal dune structure and vegetation to the local environment, residents and beach users. It is astounding that the "fact sheet" available on its website states that although the road extension "may impact" along the boundaries of Bush Forever sites; it discounts these areas as being "largely degraded". This is not supported by the facts.

The City of Stirling, as long ago as May 2012 decided, after a public consultation process, to amalgamate the existing north Esplanade road reserve into the adjacent South Trigg Beach Class A Reserve, in recognition of its environmental significance. The MRA's plans have halted this process which was well underway. This has effectively reversed a decision made democratically by the



*An approximate location of the proposed extension of the Esplanade and proposed street parking through Bush Forever Area 308 (Trigg Bushland). Based on the Scarborough Master Plan 2015 (<http://www.mra.wa.gov.au/projects-and-places/scarborough/master-plan>)*

City of Stirling. The public has been kept in the dark about this reversal with no explanation forthcoming from either level of government.

The dunes that will be destroyed by the northern extension of the Esplanade are currently included in Bush Forever Area 308 in recognition of their regional significance and importance as a biological link between the Quindalup dunes on the coast to the adjacent Trigg Bushland Reserve. Any road works through the corner of the South Trigg Reserve will involve clearing of native vegetation and significant movement of sand, creating the potential for erosion and irreversible damage to the dune system.

Well regarded ecologist Dr J Fisher has studied this area and recommended in 2013, that the whole of the South Trigg Beach Reserve, including the road reserve become "...a high priority for immediate protection, management and investment, to ensure ongoing connectivity across this landscape."

The MRA must take heed of the environmental experts and abandoned plans to extend the Esplanade through the coastal dune reserves.

We are seeking support from other conservation groups. Contact us if you wish to become more actively involved; talk to your neighbours and friends and ask them to visit the site to form their own opinion; become a Supporter of the Friends of Trigg Beach; write to the MRA expressing opposition to the Esplanade extension; like our Facebook page; look at our website <http://friendsoftriggbeach.org>; and keep in touch.

*Robyn Murphy*

## Wetlands Conservation Society

**Inquiry into the decision to commit funding to the Perth Freight Link project** - Submission prepared on behalf of the Wetlands Conservation Society, August 2015.

I was involved with the planning for the Metro Freight Network Strategy from 2001 to 2008. I participated in this planning process as a community stakeholder and I was a member of a sub-committee that examined the local impacts of the strategy

The WA Government established the Metropolitan Freight Network review in 2001 to examine the options for the future transport of freight through the Metropolitan Area. As part of this review it held several freight network congresses where all stakeholders were invited to attend and express their views on the options.

In April 2004 a workshop was held at Murdoch University to rank the options for improving freight access from Kewdale to the Port of Fremantle. A large number of options were presented and these were evaluated by the participants and then ranked using multi-criteria analysis. The unanimous conclusion of that workshop was that stages 8 and 9 of the Roe Highway were not needed and that the best solution was to upgrade the existing access roads and increase the use of rail. The development of a new port in Kwinana was recommended so that it could relieve the pressure on Fremantle.

The outcomes of this planning workshop and the preceding Freight Congresses led to the establishment of a Local Impacts Committee, of which I was a member, along with other key stakeholders. It met on many occasions over the following three years and considered a program of road and intersection upgrades to provide improved access for trucks to the Port of Fremantle and greater safety for all road users.

The results of this work formed part of the Government's Six Point Plan for the Metro Freight network, which was released following approval by the Freight Congress in 2008. The 6-point Plan (attached) included the construction of Roe 7 to the Kwinana Freeway, an early start on the new harbour at Kwinana, and steps to improve traffic flow on existing access roads to the Port of Fremantle.

The Metro Freight Network Strategy was a carefully considered, consultative and cost effective approach to the short, intermediate and long term needs of the freight industry in the Metropolitan Region. Funds were allocated in the 2008 State Budget and in the forward estimates to implement some aspects of this plan.

Roe Highway stage 7 was constructed and some improvements were made to traffic flow on Leach Highway

# Group News Group News Group News

and South Street, but there was a change of Government in WA in 2008 and the remainder of the Six Point Plan was abandoned in favour of an older plan (the Hepburn-Stephenson Plan of 1965) which relied on building Roe Highway stages 8 and 9 to provide access to the Port. This option had been considered and rejected by the Freight Congress. However, there was no consultation with the stakeholders who had carefully planned the Metro Freight Network Strategy. The State Government simply announced that it was going to build Roe 8 and it set up a consortium called South Metro Connect to plan this road. SMC did hold three community workshops but these were simply to collect comments on its designs for Roe 8. The planning for the new Outer Harbour was suspended even though a private consortium had already received environmental approval in 2000 to construct a new harbour at James Point in Cockburn Sound. The road and intersection upgrades were also abandoned as the Government focussed its attention on Roe 8.

Late in 2014 the State Government announced its intention to sell the Port of Fremantle and to put the new Kwinana port on hold. It then announced that it would construct the Perth Freight Link, a toll road consisting of Roe 8 and a new highway through Fremantle to the Port. Stage 2 of the Perth Freight Link has never been publicly discussed or reviewed by the EPA. The costs and benefits of the Perth Freight Link and comparisons with the Six Point Plan have never been publicly released.

In my opinion the planning of the Perth Freight Link is a tragic failure of Government process. All of the careful planning and consultation by the previous Government has been abandoned in favour of a vague design based on outdated planning from the 1960s that was never submitted to environmental impact assessment. The new plan has not been discussed publicly with the key stakeholders and the details of stage 2 of the PFL are still uncertain. No cost benefit analysis is publicly available and comparisons with other options are lacking.

I believe that the Commonwealth should not invest taxpayers' funds in the current proposal for the Perth Freight Link. It is a very expensive and high impact project and I am not convinced that it is the best option for the freight industry or the community in WA.

*Philip Jennings*

## Friends of Hollywood Bushland

The next working bee and final for the year, is on Sunday, 8th November. At the usual time of 9 am, meeting at the Boronia Avenue/Karella St. entrance. In view of the extreme dry we will continue with watering and weeding the new plantings. Morning Tea is at 10.30 am and if we feel we have accomplished sufficient, we will spend a little longer at morning tea and then pack up. In spite of how dry it is, there is still a fair amount of col-

our to be seen in the bushland, it is still looking good. Early in the year, colour is always blue and yellow, and now it is red. Rainbow bee-eaters have returned and can be seen wheeling above the reserve and calling to each other. At the moment we have a big flock of Galahs who always seem to have someone arguing with them, usually the very territorial Wattle Birds. Look forward to seeing you on the 8th and if not, we wish you a Happy Christmas and New Year.

*David & Trish Hewson*

## Friends of Brixton Street Wetlands

On October 17, the Friends of Brixton Street Wetlands looked closely at various life forms found within the puddles of the Brixton Street Nature Reserve. With assistance from Joan Powling and Mary Gray, participants studies a range of aquatic microorganisms collected in the Reserve.

As the following photos by Subas P. Dhakal show, the day was a great success and an attraction for all ages.



# Group News Group News Group News

**Quinns Rocks Environmental Group** is celebrating 30 years of local action this year. Reflecting on the past years, the Group has seen positive changes; local residents enjoying a few more local bushland reserves than there would have been without its efforts, degraded areas in local reserves have been rehabilitated with support from the City of Wanneroo, baseline data on flora and fauna for several local reserves was compiled, several environmental publications were released and importantly, the Group keeps holding a range of activities every year. The environment is on the agenda locally.

However, many challenges remain. The most recent battle is the Group's effort to influence the Mitchell Freeway extension and the associated road works. We are seeking to minimise the impacts on the Neerabup National Park and the east west ecological corridor to the coast. Despite all the work, raising issues and providing suggestions for alternative approaches, providing comments and attending site visits within demanding short timelines set by the project team, the Group's concerns are being ignored. It is difficult not to question the real intent behind 'community engagement' in this project. Especially when the local newspaper publishes articles, promoting progress with road works, that create an impression that the clearing of massive old trees for these road extensions was supported by the members of the Construction Reference Group set up for this project (QREG has a representative on this Reference Group).

On the positive side, working in partnership with the City of Wanneroo on the management of local reserves leads to great outcomes.

In January 2015, a fire burnt through a portion of coastal heath-

*(Continued from page 1)*

land and shrubland in Gumblossom Reserve in Quinns Rocks. The City's Conservation Team sprayed grassy weeds, treated Pink gladiolus with herbicide and members of the QREG followed up with hand weeding, focusing on the Pink gladiolus. The results of the joint effort are fantastic, the burnt section of the reserve is recovering very well. Even a new orchid species can now be added to the flora list for the reserve. The photos below show the difference in recovery of the same plant community affected by the same fire, with one being managed by the City and the QREG, while the vegetation on the adjoining land did not receive any weed control after the fire.

*Renata Zelinova*



*Photo on left showing the vegetation condition, as on 8th October, of a plant community affected by fire in January. No weed control was undertaken on this land, with Pink Gladiolus (foreground) and Annual Veldgrass (background) growing in high densities.*

*Photo on right showing the vegetation condition of a different part of the plant community affected by the same fire. In this part, weeds were controlled by herbicide and hand-weeding.*



*Photos by R Zelinova*

*Microblitz* UWA. All of us enjoyed the event fully. The "Orchids, Soil & Disturbance" event was described as very interesting, important, engaging, informative, joyful and well-prepared. All participants shared their contact details with the organizers and continue being involved in community-based activities. We all agreed that involvement in scientific project is very exciting and leads to innovative connections.

Figures below show the Lead and Phosphorus levels recorded at the three different localities within Bush Forever Area 342, representing plant communities of invasive species, mixed invasive and native species and an undisturbed community of native plants and orchids.

## Mother Nature Stories - Learn & Share

### Tawny Frogmouth and chick

The Tawny Frogmouth had been sitting on the nest for at least 25 days before this little chick was seen. I read that Tawny Frogmouths share in brooding the eggs. All that time I thought she was the same bird. Even with sharing, a great effort is put into nest building and to hatching a chick or chicks. Then the offspring have to be raised.

This nest is just outside Underwood Avenue Bushland but the other partner has been heard in Underwood on two mornings, no doubt seeking food. The call is a repeated oom, oom, oom, oom, oom.

How our comprehension about nature has changed over 150 years. John Gould described the nesting behaviour of Tawny Frogmouths:

"In every instance one of the birds was sitting on the eggs and the other perched on a neighbouring bough, both invariable asleep. That the male participates in the duty of incubation I ascertained by having shot a bird on the nest, which on dissection proved to be a male."



*Photo by M Owen*

*Tawny Frogmouth with its chick in a nest near Underwood Avenue bushland.*

Our search for knowledge needs the habitat of such birds to be protected. Our native species are protected but their habitat is not.

*By Marg Owen*

## Vale - Norm Godfrey – A Pioneer of Urban Bushland Conservation

One of the most significant figures in the modern effort to conserve and restore wetlands and urban bushland passed away on 1 October 2015. Norm Godfrey was a quiet achiever who spent the last 30 years of his life revegetating damaged wetlands and urban bushland, particularly in the south metropolitan area.

I first met Norm in the early 1980s, soon after he and his wife Rita moved into their new home in Kardinya. I lived on the same street so I often saw Norm working in his garden as I passed by. I was impressed by the meticulous way he designed and planted his garden and so I stopped and talked to him occasionally as I walked by.

In 1984, an event occurred which changed the course of both our lives. It was the decision by the State Government and the local authorities to construct Farrington Road through the North Lake Bushland. Norm and I and many of our neighbours were shocked by this decision as it was contrary to the recommendations of the EPA in its System Six Report. We had naively assumed that if the EPA had said that Farrington Road should not be constructed through the wetlands and the Government had accepted the Report then it wouldn't happen. We both joined the campaign, led by the Kardinya Residents Association, and wrote letters, made submissions, contacted councillors and politicians and even took legal action but it was all to no avail. On 10 September 1984 three bulldozers arrived at North Lake and began to clear a path through the banksia woodland for Farrington Road. We protested and even stood in front of the bulldozers to protect the trees and wildlife but our efforts were in vain. Several residents, including one of Norm's daughters drove their vehicles into the path of the bulldozers in an effort to stop the destruction but that also failed. Eventually after three weeks of protests the road went through and the tranquility and accessibility of the northern shore of North Lake and the banksia woodland was destroyed forever.

Many people were discouraged and disillusioned by these events but this experience only made Norm more determined to increase his efforts to protect the environment. We realized that we could not rely on the EPA and the Government to protect our remaining wetlands. If we wanted to save them we would have to become active and constantly argue the case for conservation. So early in 1985 we called a meeting at Kardinya Primary School to establish a Wetlands Conservation Society. I was elected President and Norm became the first Vice-President. We set ourselves an ambitious agenda to revegetate degraded areas of the Beelihar wetlands, to raise public awareness about the value of wetlands and to campaign for Beelihar and other regional parks. Norm decided to focus on the revegetation work and he raised thousands of native plants in his back yard and we planted them at various places around North, South, Yangebup and Bibra Lakes. We even revegetated the northern carriageway of Farrington Road. We made peace with the Cockburn Council and made a joint submission to Canberra to establish a Wetlands Education Centre at Bibra Lake. After several rejections these efforts were successful and the Centre opened in June 1993 and was run initially by the WCS.

Norm retired from the Department of Agriculture in 1993 and moved to Denmark. He remained an active member of the WCS while he pursued his conservation efforts in Denmark. In 1997 the City of Melville named a small reserve near where Norm used to live in Kardinya the Norm Godfrey Park, in recognition of his contributions to greening the local area.



Photo by D Crosbie

*Norm amongst some of the wetland plants he grew. He is holding a tray of Ornduffia albiflora, a beautiful aquatic herb producing white, upright flowers as the water levels fall.*

Norm and Rita returned to Perth in the late nineties to be closer to their families and they settled in Willetton. Norm asked me if there were jobs that he could take on at the Wetlands Centre. I suggested several options and he chose the role of honorary nursery manager. He also assisted Denise Crosbie and Rex Sallur with planning the annual revegetation projects that the Centre has conducted over the last twenty years. Between 2000 and 2015 Norm devoted countless voluntary hours to organizing the nursery, selecting the seed, propagating the plants, researching new methods of germinating difficult species and supervising the planting program. He gave several talks about his work, much of which was innovative and original and he wrote up a nursery manual for the staff so that they could eventually take over his role. His germination and planting techniques were highly successful and the seed production areas that he and Denise established are a feature of the Centre. Many revegetation professionals have visited the Centre to inspect Norm's work and to learn from his experience.

Another example of his creativity is the waterwise garden which he and Denise designed and planted at the Wetlands Centre. This beautiful native garden is meant to show what can be done with our local flora. Hundreds of visitors come to admire it every year.

Norm has left a precious legacy to the community. It includes the waterwise garden, the seed production orchards, the native plant nursery and the hundreds of thousands of plants that were raised in his nursery and are now growing in the Beelihar Regional Park.

When people visit the Centre and the surrounding wetlands they are always greatly impressed by the magnificent restoration work that Norm, Denise, Rex and many other volunteers have done. It provides a model for the conservation industry and a message of hope for the future that our past mistakes in land management can be repaired by a careful and persistent scientific approach.

It has been a privilege and a pleasure to have known Norm and to have worked closely with him on these projects over the past thirty years and I am glad that I had the chance to thank him on several occasions for doing such a brilliant job for the community and for the wildlife that he loved so dearly.

*Philip Jennings*  
Wetlands Conservation Society



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THE URBAN BUSH TELEGRAPH



## Urban Bushland Council's Events

### The Extinction Crisis for Carnaby's Cockatoo: fight for survival

Tuesday 8 December 5.30pm refreshments for 6pm start

City West Lotteries House, 2 Delhi Street West Perth

Guest speakers:

**Christine Groom** Carnaby's Cockatoos in the urban landscape of Perth.

How they use the landscape and how we can help to ensure they keep visiting.

**Geoff Barrett** 2015 Great Cocky Count, and Population Viability Analysis for Carnaby's Cockatoo.

Carnaby's cockatoo numbers continue to decline at an alarming rate, so the continuing loss of bushland food and pines is having a devastating effect.

A \$5 donation at the door to assist our fight to keep cockatoos into the future will be appreciated

## SUPPORT THE URBAN BUSHLAND COUNCIL

### Join or renew your membership

#### Groups:

Membership with voting rights is available to groups committed to the protection of urban bushland for \$45 a year (GST included). A growing membership strengthens the cause and groups benefit from the network.

#### Individuals:

Supporter membership is only \$35 per year (GST included). Supporters can attend meetings and receive copies of the "Urban Bush Telegraph"

Groups and supporters are reminded that annual membership fees include one printed copy of the *Urban Bush Telegraph* (currently published quarterly). Additional printed copies can be ordered at a cost of \$5.00 per copy per annum.

Send your name, address and cheque or postal order to: Treasurer, Urban Bushland Council WA Inc, PO Box 326, West Perth WA 6872

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