

WILKINS ROAD BUSHLAND IN KALAMUNDA SAFE FOR NOW - THE STORY OF PERSEVERANCE

By Meg Wilson

In October, the Governor pursuant to Section 55(2) of the *Planning and Development Act 2005* revoked her approval of Metropolitan Region Scheme amendment 1271/41-Lot 59 Wilkins Road, Kalamunda, concluding the amendment process. The amendment sought to transfer 10.73 ha of bushland from Parks and Recreation reservation to the Urban zone.

Efforts to save Wilkins Rd reserve need to be seen as part of the decades-long, hard-fought battle to protect and secure the exceptional conservation values of the Darling Range area as part of the natural heritage for the people of Perth.

The saving of Wilkins Rd Reserve in Kalamunda last month, serves not only as a testimony to the dogged determination and persistence of members of our local communities spanning more than 30 years, but also to the upholding of the State Labor government's commitment to establish the Park from the start as a matter of urgency.

The Conservation Council WA/ community led Darling Range Forum first got the Park concept "off the shelf" in the late 1980s-early 1990s, opening dialogue and presenting a formal proposal for a Darling Range Regional Park. Labor's Fred McKenzie gave the initial impetus at a government level back in the early 1990s. Liberal support seemed strong, but to our dismay, faltered recently over the Shire of Kalamunda proposal to develop about 11ha Wilkins Rd reserve as a residential Aged Care facility – seen by many as a dangerous 'trojan horse' proposal.

Much appreciation goes to current Planning Minister Rita Saffioti and new Kalamunda MP Matthew Hughes for choosing to act in the region's best interests by keeping Wilkins Rd reserve and the regional park concept intact.

The dedicated work of the Darling Range Regional Park Community Advisory Committee to ensure the preservation, smooth transition, and best interests of the Park in every detail has not been in vain. The Nature Reserves Preservation Group established in 1996, led by Tony Fowler, has been a force extraordinaire. From all our Save Wilkins Reserve supporters, led by Tim Colegate, well-reasoned arguments, insistence on adherence to the facts, many letters, submissions, visits to MPs, a DVD and plenty of local newspaper exposure, have maintained a high standard of opposition to inappropriate attempts to undermine the concept of the Park. Support was also given by Mundaring's Jane Brook Catchment Group, representing concerns of volunteer landcare groups.

Our greatest concern was that rezoning this one reserve would set a dangerous precedent and jeopardize the future security of the 30 other reserves, the regional park concept, and the transitional process.

Lot 59 Wilkins Rd reserve is currently gazetted as Darling Range Regional Park, it should remain so, and be handed over as quickly as possible to DBCA for management.

Corridors in Kalamunda are already predominantly remnant. Wilkins Rd reserve is part of a vital north-south wildlife corridor linking Gooseberry

Hill National Park to Korung National Park. Loss of Wilkins Rd reserve would have disturbed the health and function of this vital linkage, and further fragment Darling Range Regional Park. The connectivity cannot be replicated, once lost.

Change from 'Parks and Recreation' reservation to 'Urban' zoning is substantial, and because it is part of the larger body - Australia's largest regional park, and part of a unique and outstanding WA planning achievement - this would undoubtedly have signalled a further unacceptable precedent. The rezoning proposal was seen as highly irresponsible.

The Shire of Kalamunda wanted to give away Wilkins reserve for urban development. Such a giveaway would set still another dangerous precedent. The Darling Range Regional Park land would be seen by developers as 'cheap land' for urban development. In real terms, the cost to the environment and people of Perth would become enormous.

For more go to page 3

Inside this issue:

Farrall Road TEC threatened	4
Group News	6
Campaign updates	10-11

Editorial

The Minister for Environment; Disability Services, Hon Stephen Dawson, has approved two proposals by the Water Corporation for construction of pipelines through Bush Forever Areas. In both cases there are alternative locations for the respective pipelines which would avoid these incursions with their highly significant and unacceptable environmental impacts.

As explained in our last edition of the Urban Bush Telegraph, and in both cases the Water Corporation had ignored the UBC's advice given by scientific experts especially concerning soil disturbance and hydrological impacts. At the next step the EPA in its recommendations also ignored our submissions based on sound science. Our recommended alternative locations were ignored in both cases. In the third step for each proposal, the Appeals Convenor ignored our comprehensive advice given at the Appeal hearing by expert scientists. Then in the last step of the EIA process, the Minister dismissed our appeals and accepted the EPA's advice. He allowed 'other factors' of cost and social concerns (i.e. inconvenience of pipeline construction works along road reserves) during construction to outweigh and justify very significant unacceptable impacts on Bush Forever sites. This is contrary to the precautionary principle and the principle of prevention and to government policy in SPP 2.8 for Bush Forever. The Water Corporation was blatantly given its preference for what it called the 'cheapest' option. However their costing did not put a cost on the environmental harm to the Bush Forever sites: namely degradation from edge effects on Banksia woodlands, likely acidification of Lake Joondalup, hydrological disturbance and degradation of groundwater dependent ecosystems in Anstey-Keane Damplands.

It is disturbing that provisions of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986* do not provide for scientific rigor and facts to consistently drive the environmental impact assessment process and especially the appeals process. There are many other cases, past and present, where the assessment and appeals processes have failed dismally to provide the best options for environmental protection. Just some examples are: Roe 8 through Beeliar wetlands, Pt Peron and Mangles Bay, Underwood Avenue Bushland, Garden Street extension in Southern River/Huntingdale, and Ocean Reef Bush Forever 325.

In another current case, the extraordinary story of failure to protect Bush Forever site 309, Farrall Road starting with its highly questionable sale by the government to a developer is given on page 4. The proposal for its subdivision has now been referred to the EPA and its level of assessment is yet to be determined. Will the EPA ignore the expert scientific advice of the Blackadder Woodbridge Catchment Group and the UBC for a formal assessment as PER?

These failures are reason for WA to introduce provision for a new rigorous appeals process in a new Environment Court for WA. You are invited to come along to the UBC's AGM on 6th March 2018 to hear our special guest Emeritus Professor John Bailey to speak on an Environment Court for WA.

UBC Website Upgrade now happening

It seems so long ago that we were planning the cutover of a new UBC website – yes it was 6 years ago. In those six years, our website -<http://www.bushlandperth.org.au/>- has grown considerably to be a comprehensive online presence that showcases the wonders of Perth as a biodiversity hotspot.

The website has served us well over that time, but technology has moved on and we have secured Lotterywest funding for a complete revamp so that our website can be handled by smart phones and tablets.

We will be upgrading the current website using Wordpress. It is the world's most used CMS platform. It is extremely extendable and user friendly. Not-for-Profits benefit due to its open source license and its popularity (finding developers to work on Wordpress sites is very easy). There is a large directory of free and paid plugins that make extending a Wordpress site very easy.

Nik from Web Complete has been awarded the contract to design and develop the website. Nik was part of the team that built our existing website and has helped with support since original cutover.

We will be maintaining a resource-intensive website including most of the existing features. In addition there will be some new features including a membership module that will use a subscription plugin that connects to PayPal and Credit Cards to allow automation of our membership billing.

There will be a 'shopping cart' so that we have the ability to take one-off payments for items like publications. In addition, the website will integrate tightly with the eNews (via Mailchimp), Facebook, Twitter and also a blog about urban bushland issues and happenings.

Finally there will be new weeds search functionality with:

- a weeds database with a photo gallery
- text about the whys and what's of environmental weeds.

Cutover to the new site is planned late December or early in 2018. If you have any queries please contact Christine Richardson, UBC's Committee Member on christine.richardson@iinet.net.au



NEWSLETTER ITEMS

Compiled by: Renata Zelinova

PLEASE SEND CONTRIBUTIONS TO: ubc@bushlandperth.org.au

Copy deadline - 10 February 2018

Saving Wilkins Road Bushland

By Tony Fowler

The battle to save 10.73 ha of bushland in Kalamunda has its origin 1990, when the Darling Range Regional Park proposal was first announced. A draft document, released in 1993, attracted 120 submissions in support of the proposal, from Nature Reserves Preservation Group (NRPG), Department of Conservation and Land Management (CALM), Conservation Council of WA (CCWA), Urban Bushland Council (UBC), The Wildflower Society of WA, Kalamunda Shire Council and many individuals. In October 1995, the Minister for Planning released the final Park proposal.

MRS amendment 978/33 'Darling Range Regional Park Amendment' (1996) was advertised for public comment, proposing, in part, '...the reservation of an additional 15,000 hectares of State or Local Government owned or vested land for inclusion into the Regional Park'. Those involved were: 'Shires of Swan, Mundaring, Kalamunda and Serpentine-Jarrahdale and Cities of Armadale and Gosnells.' Kalamunda proposals, including the K13 proposal, were endorsed by the Shire Planning Committee, the Community Environmental Advisory Committee (CEAC) and Council in July 1996. The Darling Range Regional Park was proclaimed in the Government Gazette of 22 November 1996, which declared amendment 978/33 took effect "on and from 14 November 1996."

The Darling Range Regional Park Community Advisory Committee and its ongoing battle to create a management plan for the park, was outlined in a 2016 Bush Telegraph article on the fate of the Darling Range Regional Park. Reserve 30314, Lot 59 Wilkins Road was not placed under CALM management, nor was it included in Regional Park maps. Since that discovery, by an NRPG Advisory Committee member, we have been battling to correct this situation.

In 2011 NRPG and local residents, acting independently, identified a threat to the reserve; a concept plan for a Lifestyle Village on the site. The environmental assessment in 2011 that "> than 90% of vegetation is in excellent to very good condition..." highlighted the importance of retaining the environmental and biodiversity values of the site and its vital function as a green linkage between areas of natural bushland.

In December 2012, Kalamunda Council requested WAPC initiate an amendment to the MRS, rezoning Lot 59, Wilkins Road from P&R reserve to urban zone, seeking support for the development from the Minister for Planning (also the local Member for Kalamunda).

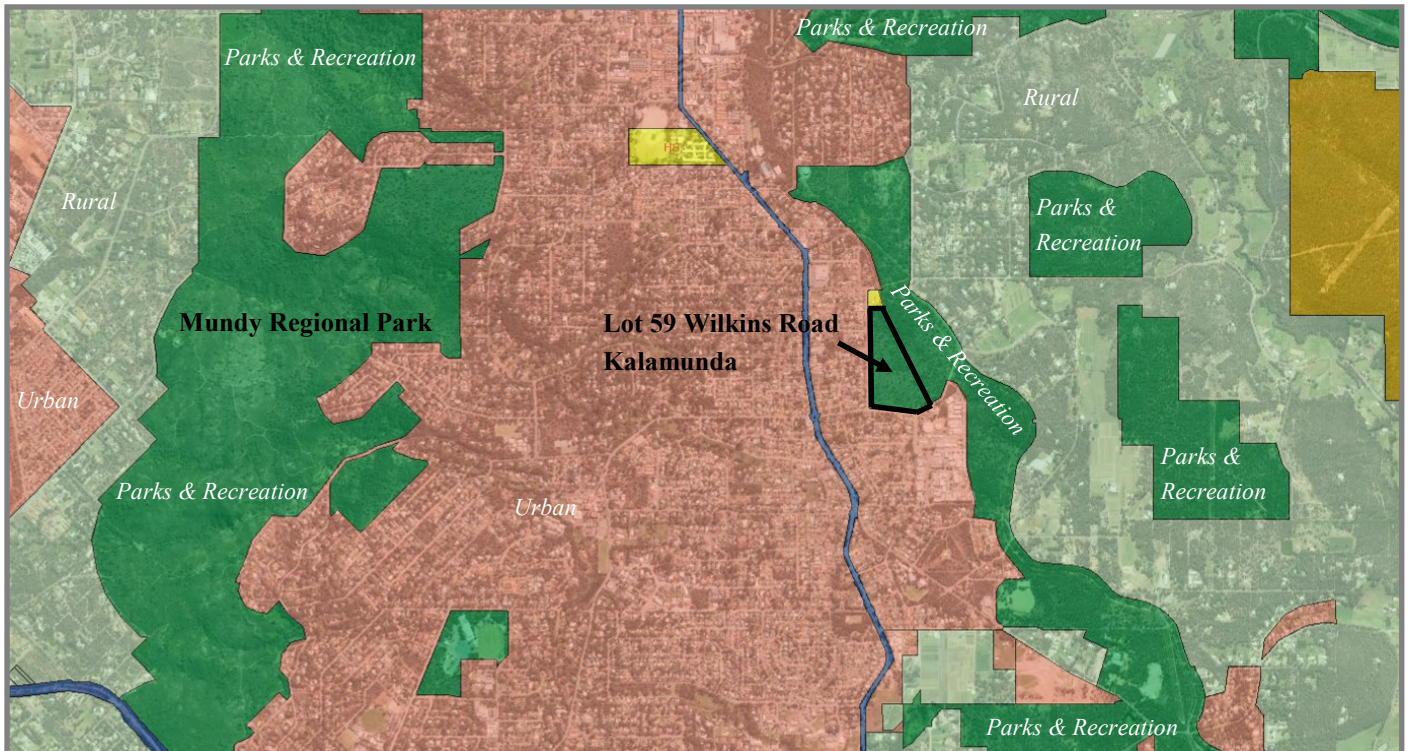
In May 2013, NRPG requested, unsuccessfully, that Council cease to regard Wilkins Road as "low-hanging fruit" and withdraw its request for the rezoning of Lot 59.

In 2014, public comment was invited on MRS amendment 1271/41. Of the 75 submissions, 46 were objections, 15 were in support and 14 were general comments on the amendment. The opportunity to present a case to a WAPC panel hearing was accepted by NRPG, Save Wilkins Road Friends Group and many others. Later NRPG and the Wilkins Road group made a final presentation to the full WAPC.

Grounds for objection included:

The unacceptable loss of more than ten hectares of valuable bushland, acknowledged by the Environmental Protection Authority as a linkage between other local natural areas and, intended for inclusion in a Darling Range Regional Park.

The folly of locating a vulnerable land use (aged care accommodation) under State Planning Policy SPP



Proposed land use change from Parks and Recreation reservation to Urban zoning for Wilkins Road reserve, Kalamunda was revoked by the Governor in October 2017. Map: Metropolitan Region Scheme over an aerial photography, Plan WA 2017.

3.7 Planning for Bushfire Risk Management, on a ridge line in a declared Extreme Bushfire-Prone area. The fact that the proposed true ‘aged care’ facilities were, in effect, a Lifestyle Village. The initial failure to declare this a “controlled action” later corrected by Department of Environment. The Bushfire Management Plan choice of inappropriate wind vectors, giving a misleading view of the potential bushfire risk to the site. The conflict with the Shire’s District Conservation Strategy (1995), Wildlife Corridor Strategy (1998), Local Biodiversity Strategy (2008), Local Planning Strategy (2010) and Local Housing Strategy (2013). The failure to acknowledge the shortcomings of surveys, carried out on behalf of the Shire. Carried out by reputable consultants, all such surveys carry a caveat, e.g. “...no recent evidence of foraging by Carnaby’s Cockatoos or Baudin’s Cockatoos was identified within the proposed area however, the survey timing may have been too early to detect foraging by these species which are known to migrate from breeding areas to the Swan Coastal Plain and Darling Scarp between February and May (Bamford 2014). Historical records kept by Bamford Consulting indicate that these two species forage within the proposal area.”

Long-term observations and photographic evidence from nearby residents supported the Bamford records. In this instance that evidence was ignored by the Shire.

These grounds are but a sample of the many, outlined in detail, in submissions to relevant Government Ministers, Opposition counterparts and Federal and State Departments over a period of years.

Opposition to the amendment was hindered by the determination of Shire of Kalamunda staff and Councillors to prosecute this with such vigour. Puzzling, given that this was in direct opposition to their 1996 enthusiasm for preserving this reserve as a part of the Darling Range Regional Park. Equally puzzling was the support given to the amendment efforts by the local member, when Planning Minister. As the inaugural chair of what became the Darling Range Regional Park Community Advisory Committee, he had been a supporter of local environmental initiatives. Significant State Government pressure

must have been brought to bear when, under the North East Sub-regional Planning Framework of the Department of Planning “Perth and Peel at 3.5 million”, reserve R30314 is seen in splendid isolation and is clearly identified as ‘Urban Land Short-term staging (2015-2021)’ (Plan 9). Unfortunately, reserve R30314, Lot 59 Wilkins Road had clearly become a political issue. On 9 October 2017, Her Excellency the Governor, on the recommendation of Minister Saffioti, revoked her approval of MRS amendment 1271/41. Reserve 30314 therefore remains Parks and Recreation reserve.

This campaign again demonstrates the value of our environmental networks. NRPNG, as the local environmental umbrella group, was in constant communication with residents (from Kalamunda and surrounding areas), the Wilkins Road group and, larger bodies such as Conservation Council of WA and Urban Bushland Council. Advice was sought from the Environmental Defender’s Office WA, WAPC and Department of Environment. Disturbing in this case, was the discovery that, since no bilateral agreement existed between the State and Federal governments, WA was able to finalize the whole amendment process before any decision had been reached by the Department of Environment, under the EPBC Act.

Whilst the hard work of these groups and individuals, contributed to the success of this campaign, once the amendment had been approved by the previous Minister, the final step could be taken only by Her Excellency the Governor. Without the change of government, Planning Minister and Member for Kalamunda, we would all have become involved in organizing a motion of disallowance in the Parliament.

Whilst the reserve and its biodiversity values are intact for now, we admit that its Parks & Recreation reserve status offers absolutely no protection from any future MRS amendment proposal. It joins other P&R reserves and many Bush Forever sites, in the precarious position of having no effective legal protection. The task now is to have reserve R30314 classified a Class A reserve, by virtue of its high conservation and community value, having it incorporated in the Conservation Estate and vested in the Conservation Commission. NRPNG is now pursuing that objective.

Threat to Farrall Road TEC and Bush Forever Area 309

By Blackadder Woodbridge Catchment Group

In 2014, the State Government sold 62 hectares of palusplain wetland and adjacent Banksia woodland at Farrall Road in Midvale to Peet & Co for \$18 million (*The Australian*, 11 July 2014).

The deal included Lot 102, part of which is the Farrall Road Bush Forever Area (BF309), a *Melaleuca preissiana* wetland with vegetation in very good condition and representative of the Guildford Complex of the eastern Swan Coastal Plain. The Guildford Vegetation Complex is considered a critical asset by the EPA as only 5% of the former extent of this vegetation remains in the Perth to Peel Region and only 0.5% of the former extent is in secure protection (EPA, 2015).

The only other Government sale of a Bush Forever Area

(that we know of) was part of Bushmead Bush Forever Area 213 at Hazelmere by the Federal Government.

Our understanding of the original intention of Bush Forever was that the State would purchase privately owned Bush Forever Areas to ensure they would be properly managed into the future. The idea that the State would privatise Bush Forever Areas seems contrary to the original intention.

At the time that Lot 102 was sold it was not known that it contained Floristic Community Type 20c, a *Critically Endangered* Threatened Ecological Community (TEC). Lot 102 was zoned “urban” prior to 1996 when there were no provisions in the EP Act for the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) to review scheme amendments.

In 2014 Peet Stratton commissioned Emerge Associates to complete an Environmental Assessment Management Strategy and a Draft Local Structure Plan for Lot 102 Farrall Road. The Emerge Associates report (2015) concluded that there were no TECs present at Lot 102.

In 2015, the Blackadder Woodbridge Catchment Group (BWCG) sent a public submission to the City of Swan opposing the Local Structure Plan because we thought the proponent's flora survey was inadequate. Emerge claimed that they had carried out a "detailed" (Level 2) assessment (as defined by EPA, 2004). However the BWCG considered that the Emerge survey did not meet the EPA criteria for a Level 2 survey due to insufficient sampling of vegetation (only two quadrats surveyed) and only one visit to the site instead of the two season survey required by EPA (2004).

Emerge then fed the scanty data they had obtained from their two survey quadrats into a statistical software package used for Floristic Community Type (FCT) analysis and concluded that the vegetation in Lot 102 was most likely to be FCT 21c, (a *Banksia* woodland type not, at the time, considered to be a TEC).

Statistical analysis of quadrat data is essential for determining whether any given patch of bushland meets the definitions specified by the Australian Government for any TECs listed under the Commonwealth EPBC Act. The quadrat data is compared with the Swan Coastal Plain dataset known as Gibson *et al* (1994). The problem with statistical analysis is that when the data fed into the software is flawed, the result of the analysis is also not scientifically valid.

On 20 January 2016 BWCG presented a deputation to the City of Swan on the basis that the original flora survey was inadequate and Lot 102 likely contained a TEC. The council approved the Local Structure Plan on the condition that if a TEC was present on Lot 102 then this should be set aside as public open space. This was recorded in the local paper (*Midland Reporter* 26 January 2016).

In June 2016 BWCG commissioned Tauss & Associates to perform a flora survey and Floristic Community Type analysis of Lot 102. This survey sampled 12 quadrats at Lot 102 and when the data was analysed using the same statistical methodology used by Emerge the result was that 9 of the quadrats represented FCT 20c, which is a *Critically Endangered* TEC.

It is interesting to compare the quadrat data from the Emerge survey in October 2014 with the June 2016 Tauss & Associates survey. Many species that characterise FCT 20c are ephemeral, such as orchids and tiny annual herbs, they appear and disappear very quickly. Some species resemble other species when not in flower and require a high level of expertise to identify. This highlights the importance of a proper "Level 2" survey and for the community to conduct an independent review when they know their local bushlands well and the proponent's results seem dubious.

In September 2017 the proponent finally referred their application to the State EPA to destroy 0.2ha of Critically Endangered TEC.

The Tauss & Associates report was referred to many



times in the proponent's referral documents. The EPA Referral Documents included a report by Emerge & Associates dated September 2017 which agreed with Tauss & Associates (2016) that Lot 102 did contain areas of FCT 20c. Page 7 of the Emerge (2017) report also mentioned that there has been a recent update to the Commonwealth's conservation advice for FCT 20c.

In July 2017 the Commonwealth published the Approved Conservation Advice (CCA) for FCT 20c ("*Shrublands and Woodlands of the Eastern Swan Coastal Plain*"). According to page 2 of this document there is no "condition threshold" for this FCT. *This means that even degraded occurrences of this FCT can be considered as important as long as there remains enough floristic and structural integrity in the vegetation for the floristic community to be identified. The advice also includes "remnant vegetation that surrounds or links several occurrences" as "critical habitat" for the TEC.*

The proponent's EPA referral is based on the condition thresholds specified in the Conservation Advice for the *Banksia Woodlands of the SCP* TEC (2016) and NOT the Conservation Advice (2017) for the *Shrublands and Woodlands of the Eastern Swan Coastal Plain* TEC (FCT 20c). This is despite the Conservation Advice for the *Banksia Woodlands of the SCP* TEC (2016) explicitly stating that it is not to be used for FCT 20c. BWCG has submitted that the proponent's EPA referral is based on an assumed condition threshold that was superseded by the Commonwealth's Approved Conservation Advice published in July 2017.

The proponent's assumption that it was proposing to clear 0.2ha of TEC is outdated and it now looks like the proposed activity will destroy closer to 1.5 ha of TEC. The proposal is to construct a road through TEC vegetation and to level and thus destroy a sand dune, with the sand to be used to fill the excavated wetland on the west side of Farrall Road. BWCG is concerned that removal of the dune will have hydrological impacts detrimental to the adjacent Bush Forever Area and the 0.3ha of TEC that is proposed for retention.

It is also concerning that the road layout in the 2015 Local Structure Plan has not changed since the discovery of the TEC. Our understanding of the EPA referral process is that proponents should first consider modifying their plans to avoid impact before proposing offsets and in this case the referral documents jump straight to offsets without looking at the possibility of avoiding the destruction of 1.5ha of TEC.

Despite BWCG being the local environmental group in the area of the development and having access to local volunteers and expertise, we were not consulted prior to the Local Structure Plan or before the current EPA Referral.

Group News Group News Group News

Local Politician Delivers on the Election Promise to Support the Management of Brixton Street Wetlands

The Brixton Street Nature Reserve is located in the suburb of Kenwick, about 14km south-east of the Perth CBD. The reserve covers an area of 19 hectares and is part of a much larger Greater Brixton Street Wetlands. The reserve is home to over 300 species of vascular flora, making it one of the most biodiverse urban protected areas in the Perth region.

The Friends of Brixton Street Wetlands is one of the longest-running environmental volunteering groups in the region that has been managing the nature reserve for nearly three decades. The Friends Group has a pool of about two dozen dedicated environmental volunteers who help out with various management initiatives. On average, 10 to 12 volunteers regularly turn up on activity-mornings to collect rubbish, organise garage sales, and monitor seasonal changes amongst many others.



Photo by S. Dhakal

Mr James Price MLA presenting Friends of Brixton St with \$10,000 towards management of Brixton Street wetlands.

WA Labor had promised \$10,000 to support the management of Brixton Street Nature Reserve as a part of its 2017 election campaign, and it delivered! Mr. Stephen James Price (MLA - Member for Forrestfield) visited the reserve on the 19th of August and handed the check to the Friends Group. Mr. Price said: "Volunteer groups like the Friends of Brixton Street Wetlands are at the heart of our community and central to the protection of our natural wildlife and bushlands".

Mrs. Regina Drummond (Convenor - Friends of Brixton Street Wetlands) thanked MLA Price for his continuous commitment towards local environmental stewardship and indicated that the funds will be utilized to combat soil erosion and improve fencing of the reserve.

Dr. Subas Dhakal

Friends of Inglewood Triangle

It has been a very busy year for the Friends at the Inglewood Triangle and soon we will be thinking about our plans for 2018.

Over summer we hand watered some 1000+ seedlings that we had planted with the Perth College kindy girls the

previous winter. Thanks to the City of Stirling that provides an on-site 1000 litre water tank so that we were no longer carting water from home! The convenience of having the tank on site reduced the watering time and we could more efficiently water both the 2016 and 2015 seedlings. We have estimated that the hand watering with the on-site tank has raised our success rate for seedling survival compared with previous years. We now have a good coverage of seedlings across most of the Triangle. No planting has been done in the dieback area. Currently the City is undertaking a trial in this section to manage Black Flag.

Over the past three terms the Perth College kindy girls and their teacher Mrs Bushby have visited the Triangle on five days. They are learning about the importance of the bushland and the biodiversity of the Triangle.

Late last year the City undertook a number of surveys of the fauna at the Triangle and we discovered we had 'scorpion city' right here at the Triangle. Apparently, the night surveys found lots of scorpions as well as 2 species of bats. With the assistance of the City, bat boxes have been installed and we eagerly await the first signs of bat activity. The Perth College girls are monitoring the bat boxes for any signs of bees and reporting to the Friends Group who will arrange for their removal.

In May, one of our Friends lead a walk in our bushland for Jane's Walk, an international organisation doing citizen-led walking tours with a view towards community-based city building. Participants were surprised how unique the Inglewood Triangle is and we have been lucky to recruit a number to our weeding volunteers. As always, we have had a dedicated band of weeding volunteers on Sunday mornings who have removed a mountain of weeds over the year.

And we welcome back our botanist Graham who has spent the last couple of years in the jungles of Panama. His knowledge of the plants is amazing and without him we couldn't identify many of those difficult sedges in particular.

Finally, we must thank Jane who has given us a real social presence on Facebook and helped the kindy girls design a banner for the Friends.

Christine Allbeury

Friends of Mosman Park Bushland River to Sea for You and Me!

The only Indian Ocean to Swan River Green Corridor under further threat! This green link is primarily in Mosman Park but as it meets the coast it depends heavily on bush in Cottesloe. It is already weakened by Stirling Highway and the Perth to Fremantle rail line.

Under the State Governments "Land Asset Sale Program" an 8000sqms of Coastal Foreshore Reserve was deemed "underutilised"! We know that a green corridor's bushland has an important role and works 24/7.

In 2016, Town of Cottesloe and Town of Mosman Park

Group News Group News Group News



Photo by S Conlan

were asked for comments to WAPC as they sought to rezone the northern portion of Beehive Montessori School and the Old Cable Station to Urban for sale and development. Many may be familiar with it being an old coastal area kept open as a break from the built suburbs. With new staff, a heavy workload and a convincing rationale document from WAPC's consultants, Town of Mosman Park planning department recommended to Council that the rezoning could go ahead. Luckily two councillors believed the open coastal landscape should remain for recreational use.

"The Post" newspaper picked up the significance of the decision. This is where community awareness of such matters is critical. A local resident who worked for the EPA in the 1980's, trying to get the best deal for the preservation of remaining bush when Buckland Hill housing development was occurring, contacted me.

It has been a huge learning curve since then of which I am truly grateful to learn the history which I feel has just been lost. Our campaign group have met and worked with local people who have such good ideas and keep the focus.

Being part of a community bushland group gives you the opportunity for support to action ideas and strategy. It would be impossible for me to campaign to stop the further degrading of the green link on my own. Let me tell you the link is degraded and fragile but it has been realised that it can be restored.

However, the remnant plants are worth getting excited about as they have survived nearly 200 years of slash and burn. The rarer of these plants such as the cypress pines (*Callitris preisii*) is an opportunity for propagation to improve genetic diversity.

UBC president, Mary Gray has been emphatic of the importance of green corridors linking bushland. It just makes so much sense! Isolated bushland degrades as wildlife diminish.

How can we get our local council planners to look at development proposals with climate change and biodiversity conservation at the fore! One area of the council, namely, natural area managers have to come up with a biodiversity conservation plan to the state government for their shire but do shire planners look at it?

Living in an older green suburb, I don't want to lose any high value trees! We have to change our mindset from "it is just a tree, another one will replace it". This just does not happen! If a mature tree is removed another nine

trees should be planted to allow for survival, provision of shade, habitat and carbon capture.

In the figure below, block green are our bush and corridors. Hashed green shows where the green links need strengthening by street tree choice, native verge treatments and encouraging houses to have gardens for nature.



Green Infrastructure (Capital City Planning Framework, WAPC 2013)

Where are we with our campaign? Because this rezoning for development effects two councils, we contacted councillors from both Towns who opposed the approval to WAPC at their council meeting. Our neighbouring bushland group, the Cottesloe Coastcare Association and Residents and Ratepayers Association from both councils. A group of 8 make up the active campaign team.



Callitris preisii

Photo by S Conlan

Group News Group News Group News

Letters have been written to new ministers for Planning, Lands and Heritage, Environment, Tourism, and the Premier which have resulted in meetings with their advisors. A power-point presentation with lots of photos and maps helped. To make sense of something advisors have no idea about, they appreciated leaving a folder with printouts of letters, maps and photos. Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage have offered for us to present when the committee meets to progress the rezoning.

We have met with our council executives of planning with the information we have found and the community concerns of the support document that was given to our council by the WAPC to make their decision for preliminary approval.

We have met with all our councillors to make them aware of our concerns. Most have suggested a rescission of the first motion which is not to be taken lightly since the first motion to give WAPC approval for rezoning was nearly one year ago.

We have applied to our council for a rescission backed by over 100 signatures from community. This should occur at the November council meeting.

A brilliant concept plan for this area, endorsed in 1998, called the Vlamingh Parklands Final Report was to coincide with the 300th Anniversary of Vlamingh's landing here in 1697. It's vision of a river to sea parkland promoting and enhancing the natural, aboriginal and historical heritage is still our vision today.

Sue Conlan

Cottesloe Coastcare volunteers have been hard at work for 21 years to improve Cottesloe's degraded 'natural areas'. We are proud of our successes. However, we are a small group so we receive a great boost when corporate teams give us a hand.

Such a lovely day happened on 27th September during Stantec's Community Week. We were lucky enough to have a team of willing weeders (Environmental Scientists in their day jobs) to assist us at one of our Coastcare sites – Cottesloe Native Garden, a precious piece of limestone ridge vegetation, unique in Cottesloe.



Photo by R Benken



Photo by R Benken

Caladenia latifolia rediscovered on a limestone ridge in Cottesloe.

'At Stantec, our promise is to design with community in mind', said Matthew Todd, General Manager (Australia). 'We work hard to give back to the communities we serve throughout the year and our Stantec in the Community Week is a chance for us to go out and make a difference to areas like the Cottesloe Native Garden.'

Cottesloe Native Garden on the east side of Seaview golf course had a 75% cover of Victorian Teatree (*Leptospermum laevigatum*). In 1983 the naturalist Robert Powell identified 37 local plant species at the site and when Cottesloe Coastcare started work in 2006 there were 30 of those species remaining, despite the massive woody weed problem. Guided by Cottesloe's 'Natural Areas Management Plan' we got to work. Almost all of the weedy teatree has been removed and mulched. We planted the area with plants grown from seed and cutting material from the site. The area is now recovering well and many small birds dart among prickly shrubs.

During the Stantec weeding session two spikes of pink fairy orchids (*Caladenia latifolia*) were discovered. We had never observed these before at any of our project sites in 20 years so it was a big thrill!

Find out more via www.cottesloecoastcare.org
www.facebook.com/cottcoastcare

Robyn Benken

Friends of Forrestdale

On September 4, we were notified by the Office of the Appeals Convenor that the Minister for Environment has determined the appeal regarding the Balannup wastewater pressure main.

The Minister advised that he has dismissed the appeals in objection to the Report and Recommendations of the Environmental Protection Authority and believes the EPA adequately considered the environmental impacts of the proposal by the Water Corporation to install a 450mm diameter wastewater pipeline through Anstey-Keane Damland.

The proposal is to install 1.5 kilometres of pipeline through Bush Forever site 342 following an existing track



Photos by B Fremlin

Sections of the route the proposed pipeline will take.

between Keane and Anstey Roads. Using the plough method rather than the more environmentally damaging open cut trench, the high-density polyethylene pipe will be installed at a depth of 1.2 metres. Installation will involve welding together sections of the pipe which the proponent claims will be free of weak points such as air and scour valves to lower the risk of leaks and spills in the reserve.

While we appreciate that the methods of construction are designed to lessen environmental damage, we do not believe that quality conservation areas should be used as corridors for infrastructure when it can be avoided. In this instance the pipeline could have been laid along Nicholson and Armadale Roads, avoiding Anstey-Keane and inevitable environmental harm altogether.

Now that the proposal has been approved, all we can hope for is that damage to the environment is kept to a minimum: that due care is taken during the two-week installation period and that the proponent's subsequent management measures to control the spread of weeds and *Phytophthora dieback* disease will be adhered to.

On a positive, following protracted negotiations the southern section of Harrisdale Swamp previously in private ownership has been acquired by the Western Australian Planning Commission (WAPC) for inclusion in the reserve.

This is an excellent outcome. For too long, inadequate fencing and general neglect in this section of Harrisdale Swamp resulted in relentless abuse from joyriders and rubbish dumpers, but this latest acquisition means that Harrisdale Swamp (Bush Forever site 253) can now be managed effectively.

The WAPC has removed the rubbish, including the many car bodies dumped in the swamp; begun weed control; constructed fencing and installed signage. The result has been a marked decrease in mistreatment of the reserve.

We applaud the WAPC for its resolve in securing the southern block in Harrisdale Swamp, and we are confident that with the care and proper management now possible, the reserve has a positive future.

But at present the same cannot be said for Anstey-Keane Dampland in Forrestdale. Two large Anstey-Keane blocks—Lots 67 and 69 Skeet Road, zoned for inclusion in the Jandakot Regional Park—remain in private hands. Similar to the southern section of Harrisdale Swamp before government acquisition, these two blocks are unfenced and unmanaged and suffer from constant incursions by off-road vehicles and people dumping rubbish. The situation is particularly regrettable as the blocks in question are of high conservation value, Lot 69 particularly.

Until the WAPC can acquire these two blocks, Anstey-Keane as a whole will remain difficult to manage; and while the abuse continues, so does the degradation.



Photo by B Fremlin

View of the recently acquired section of BF253.

Reprinted with permission from the Friends of Forrestdale Newsletter—*The Bushland Whistler*, Edition 16, October 2017

HANDS OFF
POINT PERON



Update on the Mangles Bay Marina proposal threat to Point Peron Bush Forever site 355 MRS1280/41

On the 10 October 2017 the WA Planning Commission (WAPC) presented McGowan Government Minister Saffioti with their recommendations on the proposed rezoning of Point Peron public land for the Mangles Bay Marina. The rezoning proposal is still sitting on the desk of Planning Minister Lisa Saffioti awaiting a decision.

Of the 496 submissions to the WAPC on the proposed rezoning of Point Peron public land for the Mangles Bay Marina, 430 of those submissions opposed the proposal. That's 87% of submissions to the WAPC opposed to the rezoning. The total number of presentations at the WAPC Oral Hearings Committee was 78 with 75 of those opposed to the rezoning, which is a massive 96% opposed.

Read more here <https://thewest.com.au/news/southern-telegraph/marina-decision-rests-with-minister-ng-b88642552z>

Disturbingly however, upon reading the above article, it looks like the proponents of the MBM proposal might be trying to pull a shifty by suggesting that the project can somehow be tweaked to get rid of the so called 'canals component'.

However, the whole development is one big canal with a couple of small fingers off it so the reality is if they remove the artificial canal waterway or 'canal component' there would be only housing left and no inland marina. Given that to date the Minister has still not released the WAPC recommendations, is this a sign that the WAPC has reservations itself on the rezoning?

We believe that the Government has had enough time to 'do the right thing' after receiving the WAPC's recommendations. It is time to swing into action again. So HOPP is hosting a **major community event/public meeting at the Gary Holland Centre Rockingham on 17th January at 7pm.** We need serious numbers of bums on seats for this event so please join us.

As a community we must stand firm and continue to stick up for common sense and reject any urbanization of our precious Point Peron public land.

Dawn Jecks

Websites : <http://www.handsoffpointperon.com/> and <http://cape-peron-coastal-park.com/>

Facebook pages:

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Hands-Off-Point-Peron/132054196858870>

And <https://www.facebook.com/Cape-Peron-Coastal-Park-1570055806554789/>

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has."
Margaret Mead

Friends of Paganoni Bushland

As a member of a Friends group we've learnt to cope with weeds. We have a few wins but we know that one way or the other there'll be a job for us in the coming year.

What we really find difficult to cope with are acts of environmental vandalism - these lead to despair. Just last week we arrived at our meeting place on the southern boundary only to find that three marri trees had been illegally felled. One tree was within the boundary of Paganoni Swamp Reserve whilst the other two were outside. It's beyond our comprehension why someone would cut down three magnificent trees that provided food and habitat for our threatened cockatoos as well as for numerous other animals.

We contacted all the relevant authorities but the damage had been done - the trees were dead. However, the question has to be asked - what other action can we expect from people who have probably grown up with the constant felling of trees for the development of housing estates. It is the new normal and has been so for the past thirty years. As far as the illegal loggers are concerned the trees would be cut down anyway so why shouldn't they get in first and make some money? Not only developers but of course our precious native forests continue to be logged for little or no monetary gain but instead lead to significant loss of habitat and forest values. Maybe we should begin to provide better examples for future generations so that the cutting down of trees is seen for what it is - environmental vandalism.


Leonie Stubbs



Photo by L. Stubbs

Magnificent marri destroyed by senseless vandalism at Paganoni Swamp.

Field Guide
to the Flora and Fauna
of Hollywood Reserve



By the Children of
Hollywood Primary School
with artist Angela Rossen

New book about the plants and animals of the Hollywood Reserve was launched last month. The book was prepared by students from the Hollywood Primary School that worked with Angela Rossen, Artist and Environmental Educator. Copies of the book are available via the Hollywood Primary School for \$20.

Roe'd to Recovery

Rehabilitation of Roe 8 road reserve is rather a long and winding road but we are making progress. Many aspects are as much about the healing of the community as the healing of the land.

The hideous temporary construction fencing has finally been replaced by conservation fencing. The primary function of the fencing is the protection of the regrowth and ongoing revegetation of the cleared areas while allowing access for management and access for the community to the remaining areas.

Weed control was always going to be a balancing act of controlling weeds and avoiding the regrowth. Three rounds of weed control have now been completed.

Consultants Emerge and Creating Communities are well under way in the process of bringing together the 10-year Management plan for the cleared areas. There has been extensive community and stakeholder consultation and the prospect of being able to set out a plan for adaptive management for the next 10 years is quite exciting.

We thought we were going to have a little rest after the election, but we were very wrong!

Felicity McGeorge

Bee eaters nesting in Underwood Bushland

Rainbow Bee-eaters arrived in Underwood Avenue Bushland on or just before 4 October 2017.

Usually Rainbow Bee-eaters are wary of people. I was standing under a Banksia in Underwood Bushland and this male Bee-eater, not seeing me, flew onto a branch over my head. After landing he caught sight of me, but was not alarmed as he seemed to consider me part of the bush. He perched there for about fifteen seconds.

The Bee-eaters are building their tunnels into the ground that may go down about a metre before the nest chamber is constructed and eggs laid.



Rainbow bee-eater (right) and tunnels (above) formed by Rainbow bee-eaters in Underwood Avenue bushland this Spring.



Photos by M Owen



Photo by M Owen

'Forest Red-tailed Black Cockatoo pulling some bark off the branch. This is at the Red-tailed roost site, Brockway Road, Shenton Park, opposite Underwood Avenue Bushland.

The Forest Red-tailed black cockatoos roost site at UWA Sports Park Brockway Road Shenton Park is immediately over the road from Lot 4, on which Underwood Avenue Bushland sits. This roost site is now the largest on the Swan Coastal Plain as seen from data collected from the 2017 Great Cocky Count.

On five occasions since 2012 Red-tails have been seen and photographed mating, either in Underwood Avenue Bushland or at the roost site. The two most recent mating events were within 4 weeks of each other; one on 10th October 2017 and the second on 6th November 2017.

Prior to mating the male was not giving his begging calls nor his tail spreads. He was bobbing which I presumed was a precursor to regurgitation or a ritual movement allied to regurgitation. The male on the first occasion fed the female by regurgitation six times and then he jumped right over her, then back onto her back. It took a time to mate as to manipulate the tail areas. On the second occasion, the male fed the female twice before mating.

On other occasions I have seen the adult males feed the females and then the pairs flew off, so I am sure that other mating events have taken place.

I have not been able to find out whether the pairs have a hollow in the area, but apart from the trees with hollows in Underwood, there are probably trees with hollows in the adjacent Waste Water Treatment Plant.

Margaret Owen



Forest Red-tailed black cockatoos mating.



If undeliverable, return to:

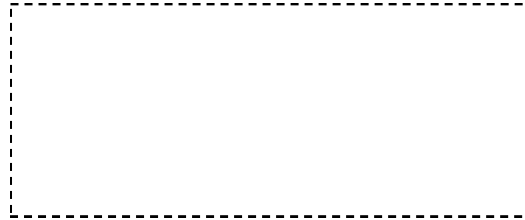
PO Box 326, West Perth WA 6872

THE URBAN BUSH TELEGRAPH

ISSN 2208-4770

**PRINT
POST
100021369**

Postage
Paid
Australia



Urban Bushland Council's Events

Thursday 6 March

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

with guest speaker

Associate Professor John Bailey: The need for an Environment Court in WA

Meet at 6pm for light refreshments, then 6.30pm start

City West Lotteries House, 2 Delhi St 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



Urban Bushland Council WA Inc



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

