

THE UBC TURNS TWENTY FIVE

By Philip Jennings

More than 80 UBC supporters joined the Committee and invited guests at a celebratory function in Kings Park on Sunday 15 April. It was a bright sunny morning and the weather perfectly matched the mood of the crowd. The event was organized to mark the 25th anniversary of the founding of the UBC on March 23, 1993. The previous issue of this newsletter covered some of the history of the UBC and the events that occurred on that day.

On this occasion Colma Keating welcomed the participants and called on several speakers to recount their personal stories about the UBC and its achievements.

First up was Senator Rachel Siewert who was involved in the formation and early years of the UBC. She complimented all concerned for their tireless contributions to protecting the biodiversity of the Metropolitan Area. She emphasized the importance of working with the Noongar Whadjuk as custodians of this land.

Next up was Marg Owen, a stalwart member of the UBC, and a successful campaigner for many sites including Underwood Avenue and the Shenton Park Bushland. Marg spoke about the bird of paradise fly and the other creatures that have inspired her to campaign to protect our urban bushland.

UBC President, Mary Gray, was the next speaker and she gave a brief summary of the many activities that the UBC has been involved with, including conferences, reports, submissions, fungi surveys and training.



Some of the founding members at the UBC celebration (from left) Joanne Payne, Rob Greenwood, Mary Gray, Angela Carr, David Wake, Norma Calcutt and Senator Rachel Siewert.

Colma Keating wound up the speeches by recounting that 48 people have volunteered on 163 occasions over the past 25 years to serve on 26 UBC committees concerned with urban bushland conservation. We are fortunate indeed to have so many volunteers who are willing to contribute their time and expertise to our cause.

The inaugural President of the UBC, Jane Blake, was unable to attend, but she sent her congratulations and best wishes to the group. She commented on how proud she was of the UBC's achievements over the past 25 years.

It was also wonderful to have 17 of the original 75 supporters who were at the launch in Kings Park, in 1993 present on this occasion. One who merits special mention is Graham Sharpe, who was 7 years old when his parents Joan & Rob brought him and his sister along to the launch. It was fabulous to have Graham and his partner Leanne with us as well as his parents again! It was

great also to have two other children (from two other families) along this time with their parentswe hope they will become active supporters and we will see them as they grow up.

The event was a great opportunity for all concerned to catch up with old friends and to share experiences and recollections of past and current campaigns. All present seemed to agree that the UBC fulfils a valuable role in our conservation community and that it is even more important now than it was in 1993.

Thanks to Colma Keating for organizing this celebration and to the speakers for their kind words and for all those valued supporters who attended this function.

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Editorial

Wow! Our UBC 25th celebration in Kings Park on 15th April was a most enjoyable event with lots of friendly chatter, sharing and reminiscing over past years. Hearty congratulations to Colma Keating for her brilliant organisation of the celebration.

Those present have been involved in hundreds of inspiring local campaigns, formation of groups, and action to protect, restore and manage our precious biodiversity in bushland and wetlands. There is so much local knowledge, expertise, and willingness to share out there in our community. A special thank you to all who attended and to 56 people who completed the mini study of histories and further priorities as the responses will provide guidance to the UBC.

In responses to 'What still needs to be done?' question - effective biodiversity protection by government with stronger legislation, planning controls and enforcement was a consistent message. Raise public awareness of the values of our precious biodiversity was the most common call. Engage younger generations, engage the media, and importantly educate the government so that there is government recognition of the importance of bushland. There needs to be a shift in thinking in government agencies so that protecting biodiversity is a priority across all sectors.

The Roe 8 campaign was massively successful in raising public awareness of what was happening and failures in governance. But we need to learn from this so that it does not happen again. Indeed a group of scientists and campaign leaders have published the book 'Never Again

- reflections on environmental responsibility after Roe 8' - edited by Andrea Gaynor, Peter Newman & Philip Jennings; published by UWA Publishing. This is an excellent 'free report' commended to government and all of us. Do come along to UBC's Council Meeting on 24th May to hear the editors speaking. See the back cover for details.

Protection of our biodiversity via completion of the Bush Forever plan and proper conservation management of all sites requires a significant new state budget allocation. While the announcement by the state government (11 April 2018) that pine harvesting of the northern plantations of the Gnangara Mound will be slowed to reduce the impact to Carnaby's cockatoo feeding habitat is welcomed, the proposed measures will only be in place till June 30, 2019 (supposed timeframe for an independent review of the Strategic Assessment of the Perth and Peel Regions (SAPPR) (See the news on **page 4** concerning the suspension of SAPPR). At the same time, great public announcements of federal and state budget allocations to Metronet for new rail and road is getting all the government priority and media publicity at present.

It is essential for us all now to publicly insist that Bush Forever implementation and biodiversity protection and conservation of our natural landscape **must come first as top priority** with a major additional state budget allocation. DBCA needs a package of resources to employ more scientists and land managers to protect and manage all the additional Bush Forever sites it wishes to take over in Regional Parks and conservation reserves. The UBC's 'Call for Action on Bush Forever' still applies!

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

Check out the new UBC website

At the old address of www.bushlandperth.org.au you will find the new UBC website. With the support of Lotterywest, the existing website was moved to a new platform, using modern design, additional features and new images. Test it out on your mobile phone!

Everything can be accessed from the home page. We have continued with our philosophy of being a content rich resource, with popular sections retained. Look out for our updated [Bushland Treasures](#) pages and our [Bush Forever](#) section. We have overhauled our "Campaigns" pages. We will continue to use the UBC website as a key platform through which we advocate for urban bushland - a priceless and unique public asset that must be retained and protected for the benefit of the community. There are also some new features still in development and they will be released over coming months. This includes a blog, a weeds section and online membership renewal capability.

UBC thanks Nik Rivas-Barnao, John Baas, Chris Allbeury and Christine Richardson for their efforts.

NEWSLETTER ITEMS

Compiled by: Renata Zelinova

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

Copy deadline - 17 June 2018

Perth NRM - FREE WORKSHOPS

How to Activate Your Community

When: Monday 28 May 9.30am-11.30am

Where: DBCA Head Office, Torndirrup Room, 17 Dick Perry Avenue, Kensington

Ideal for community groups who want to learn how to develop and grow a successful social media platform to increase reach in the local community, achieve measurable results and attract volunteers and funds. The workshop will be interactive and is targeted at entry and beginner levels.

Book via <https://www.trvbooking.com/370521>

Connecting Through Country and Culture

When: Thursday 14 June 9.45am-3.30pm

Where: Mills Park Centre, 66 Brixton Street, Beckenham

A professional development seminar on the importance of Aboriginal leadership in land management.

Book via www.trybooking.com/VLFT

For more information contact community@perthnrm.com or (08) 9374 3333

Roe 8 Campaign Resumes

By Philip Jennings

President of the Wetlands Conservation Society and the Cockburn Wetlands Education Centre

On 11 March this year a celebration was held at the Cockburn Wetlands Centre to mark the first anniversary of the cessation of work on Roe 8 and the Perth Freight Link (PFL). These divisive and irresponsible projects of the Barnett Government were halted on the first day of the incoming McGowan Government following its landslide victory in the 2017 State Election. The new Government promised to delete Roe 8 and Roe 9 from the Metropolitan Region Scheme (MRS) and to revegetate the areas of the Beelihar Wetlands which had been damaged by road works. This announcement was warmly welcomed by the conservation movement and most of the Cockburn and Fremantle communities. A committee was established by the Government under the leadership of the Member for Bickton, Lisa O'Malley, to plan the revegetation program. The Minister for Planning, Rita Saffioti, gave written and verbal assurances that she would proceed without delay to remove the Roe 8 reserve from the MRS and incorporate most of the land in the Beelihar Regional Park.

Most people thought that the campaign to save the wetlands was over and that the Government would proceed with the MRS amendments and the planning for its alternative harbour concept in Cockburn Sound.

Over the past 14 months there has been a lot of activity on these issues. The revegetation group has met on many occasions and put forward a plan to the Government for the restoration of the damaged bushland. Natural regeneration has been allowed to occur and it is quite impressive in places. Weed control and some replanting will be necessary and campaigners are hoping that this will begin soon. The City of Cockburn has offered to supervise the revegetation project.

This outcome is looking positive and we are grateful to those community members, experts and politicians who have kept faith with us and committed so much time and energy to planning the revegetation work. We still need to see results on the ground and it will take many years of effort to restore the bushland and wetland that was damaged by Main Roads and their contractors.

However, despite this good news there are worrying signs that Main Roads and their allies in the Liberal Party have not given up on their dream of building Roe 8 and the PFL. When we wrote "Never Again: Reflections on Environmental Responsibility After Roe 8" we knew that Main Roads would not accept the verdict of the people in the 2017 State Election, so we proposed a set of measures for the Government to implement in order to rein in this rebellious agency. We also outlined an alternative transport plan to develop a modern harbour in Cockburn Sound and provide better rail and road access to it, while improving public transport and undertaking small scale road works on Leach Highway and South Street to reduce traffic congestion (A. Gaynor, P. Newman and P. Jennings 2017).

The Government committed to building the Murdoch Drive Connection to link the Roe Highway to the Murdoch Activity Centre. However this project has taken on a grand scale, with the Government committing to a \$100 million link road, which includes an elaborate interchange at the Kwinana Freeway (see below) and a flyover at Farrington Road.



The plan for the Murdoch Drive Connection.

The on-line newspaper, WA Today, reported recently that many people are concerned that this project is just stage 1 of Roe 8 and the scale of works now underway seems to support this assertion (see "*Playing the long game: Roe 8 proceeding by stealth*", by Emma Young, 14 March 2018). Several groups have called on Minister Saffioti to honour her promise to remove Roe 8 from the MRS, but so far she has taken no action.

There are also worrying delays in the planning for the new harbour in Cockburn Sound and a lobby group of unions and the shipping industry has been formed to support the construction of the Perth Freight Link to Fremantle Harbour. This group is opposed to the outer harbour in Cockburn Sound. In this context the campaign against Roe 8 and the Perth Freight Link has resumed in the hope of persuading the McGowan Government to keep its promises to revegetate the damaged land and transfer it to the Beelihar Regional Park.

For those readers who are interested in the story of the Roe 8 campaign and the lessons to be learned from it, our new book "Never Again: Reflections on Environmental Responsibility After Roe 8" (A. Gaynor, P. Newman and P. Jennings 2017) is available from UWA Press and can be ordered on line from <https://uwap.uwa.edu.au/products/never-again-reflections-on-environmental-responsibility-after-ro-8>

SAPPR suspended!

The news sent out by the Department of Premier and Cabinet on April 6, 2018 stated:

'The State Government has decided to suspend work on the Strategic Assessment of the Perth and Peel Regions (SAPPR) until a critical review of the ongoing costs, risks and benefits for Western Australia is completed and can be considered by government. A lot of important and complex work has been completed as part of the SAPPR process and some outcomes have been delivered – including helping inform the sub-regional planning frameworks which were recently endorsed by the State Government.'

However the project presents many policy, legal and financial challenges which have been proving difficult to resolve, amongst the competing priorities of the government. As a result a re-evaluation of the project is the responsible step forward.

In the coming months, an independent review will consult across governments, and with industry, local governments and non-government organisations.

SAPPR sought to secure up front environmental approval for future development and raw materials extraction for an identified development footprint for a 30-year period. It represents the largest and most complex land use reconciliation work, attempting to balance certainty for development and long term environmental protection.

Further updates will be provided through the SAPPR website at www.dpc.wa.gov.au as they are available.

Thank you for your contributions so far to the SAPPR.

*Kind Regards,
The Strategic Assessment of the Perth and Peel Regions
Department of the Premier and Cabinet'*

So why did this really happen?

It would be useful to find out the real reason – we deserve to be told. How much has already been spent on this SAPPR process? It seems there is no political will to change the existing policy and legislative framework which is clearly inadequate in meeting the unique environmental conditions of this region.

Further, the UBC calls for the publication of all the updated documentation.

This suspension of SAPPR means that piecemeal development will continue without any regional plan for biodiversity conservation. Project by project will need to be referred under the EPBC Act and to the EPA as Perth grows according to the recently released sub-regional planning frameworks for Perth and Peel @3.5 million (March 2018, www.planning.wa.gov.au/10586.aspx).

Is the Government reluctant to fully fund Bush Forever and other additions to the conservation estate? Will the practice of delays with land transfers to conservation continue for years to come while roads and rails are allowed to encroach into existing conservation reserves?

The complete implementation of Bush Forever is existing unfinished business of government, it is part of infrastructure spending. There are plenty of funds in the Metropolitan Region Improvement Fund (MRIF) to secure all Bush Forever sites and to conduct initial capital works to set them up as conservation reserves. The UBC has consistently maintained that this work must be completed ahead of other infrastructure spending – for example on roads and METRONET.

Conservation of our unique but threatened biodiversity in Perth's natural landscape must come first. It is a priceless, irreplaceable natural asset of benefit to all of us.

A Vision for Conservation and Public Enjoyment of the Greater Brixton St Wetlands and an Eventual Yule Brook Regional Park

Following the successful "Rich and Rare" symposium organised by the Community Alliance for Protecting the Greater Brixton Street Wetlands (see article in Urban Bush Telegraph Summer 2017-2018) which raised awareness of the need for scientific and technical excellence to inform the development of Maddington Kenwick Strategic Employment Area (MKSEA), a new vision for the region was developed.

The Beeliar Group-Professors for Environmental Responsibility released a document which presents and argues in more detail the causes for concern over the proposed MKSEA development and its impacts on the Greater Brixton Street Wetlands, the most biodiverse Bush Forever Area in the Perth Metropolitan Region. This document also outlines a vision for a Yule Brook Regional Park based on the Greater Brixton Street Wetlands, and Yule Brook and its floodplain.

With 60% of the lands comprising the Greater Brixton Street Wetlands to be surrounded by future industrial development, it is critical that this development is de-

signed and incorporates best practice measures to avoid and minimise impacts on the high conservation value ecosystems. The best practice measures in water sensitive design, adequate setbacks to protect sensitive wetlands and threatened ecological communities, fauna sensitive transport infrastructure and ecologically sensitive fire risk management will not only minimise the impacts of the proposed development but will provide benefits to the industrial area, its workers and visitors to this unique part of the Swan Coastal Plain.

The benefits of the proposed Yule Brook Regional Park would go beyond the immediate area of the Greater Brixton Street Wetlands and the Yule Brook floodplain. It could form part of an ecological trail along Yule Brook from Lesmurdie Falls National Park to the Canning River Regional Park, including about 8km shared-use path which will showcase Perth's international status as a biodiversity hotspot.

To read the Vision document go to <https://thebeeliargroup.com/our-statements/>

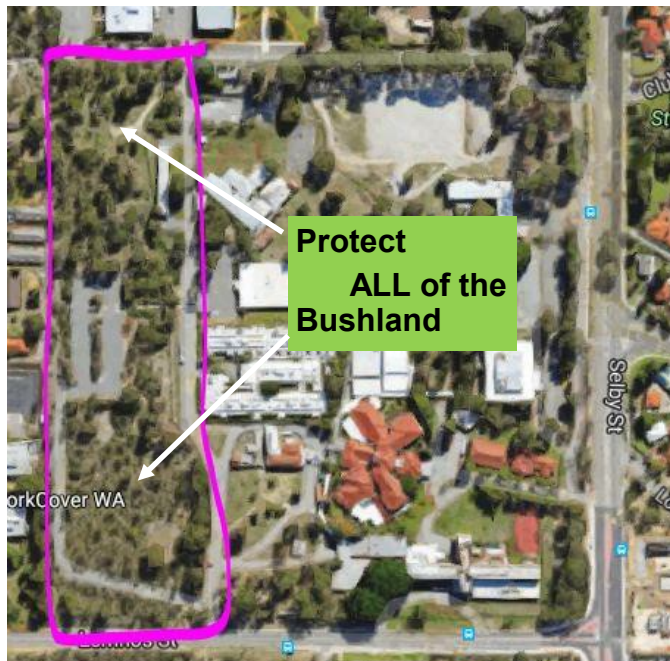
Still Hope for Bushland

By Heidi Hardisty

The frustrating four year battle to save the remnant Banksia Woodland on the former Royal Perth Rehabilitation Hospital site in Shenton Park continues.

'Lemnos St Bush' provides habitat for the endangered Carnaby's Cockatoos and is now listed as a Threatened Ecological Community (TEC) under the EPBC Act. As an important ecological linkage between two Bush Forever Sites, (Underwood Avenue Bushland and Shenton Park Bushland), it should be safeguarded and enhanced according to several key State Planning Policies.

Yet LandCorp has chosen to ignore not only these policies, but also the science and the community's wishes to save 'Lemnos St Bush'. Indeed, LandCorp has never provided an alternative plan other than developing within the bushland and cutting up the remainder into cells to reduce bushfire risk. They even convinced the former Liberal Minister for Planning to approve a flawed Improvement Scheme in December 2016.



Proposed clearing of the remnant Banksia Woodland has never been justified by LandCorp or the Department of Planning

Since then Bush Not Bricks campaigners, Lyn Jennings and Heidi Hardisty, have worked tirelessly to point out the deficiencies in the planning process and that there is a viable alternative.



Great community support: Over 300 people attended the rally to save Lemnos St Bush on March 25th; 250 people took the time to hand write a note to the Minister for Planning, which was delivered to her the following day.

LandCorp could remove the 29 proposed single residential lots on the eastern side of the site, replace them with higher density housing and use better construction standards; then infill targets could be met, with bushfire safeguards in place, and the entire Banksia Woodland saved.

Last spring, LandCorp applied for a Clearing Permit to remove 1.52 hectares (60%) of the bushland. When over 1000 submissions were received opposing this, LandCorp changed tact and instead applied for subdivision approval which, if granted, would allow the clearing under an exemption in the *Environmental Protection Act 1986*.

The subdivision proposal was considered by the Statutory Planning Committee (SPC) on April 10th. Passionate pleas to save the bushland were made by 6 presenters: Heidi Hardisty, Lyn Jennings, Marg Owen, Mary Gray, President of the Urban Bushland Council, Dr Ric How, retired curator of the WA Museum and Max Hipkins, Mayor of the City of Nedlands.



Thankfully the SPC deferred their decision on LandCorp's subdivision application to a later date. This means that there is still a chance to save 'Lemnos St Bush'.

We were pleased that the committee listened to our concerns and will investigate the matter further before making a final decision. We have asked the WA Planning Commission if there will be another SPC meeting, when that will be, and if we can make a detailed submission before this happens. Throughout the entire planning process, neither LandCorp nor the Department of Planning have provided justification for clearing any of the Banksia Woodland or given their reasons for deviating from key State Planning Policies.

We are extremely hopeful that the SPC investigation will expose the deficiencies of our current planning processes and lead to a far better outcome. We want a win-win situation. Develop wisely and save Lemnos St Bush!

River to Sea for You and Me!

By Sue Conlan, Friends of Mosman Park

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 and plans for urban development will further fragment the green corridor. We know that a green corridor's bushland has an important role and works 24/7.

Under the State Government's "Land Asset Sale Program" an 8000sqms of Coastal Foreshore Reserve which was deemed "underutilised" is proposed to be rezoned to Urban land!

In 2016 Towns of Cottesloe and Mosman Park were asked for comments to WAPC as they sought to rezone the northern portion of Beehive Montessori School and the Old Cable Station land to Urban zone. You may be familiar with it being an old coastal area kept open as a break from the built suburbs.

With new staff, 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 fur-

ther degrading of the green link on my own. It is acknowledged that the vegetation within the link is degraded and fragile but 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 Rottneest Island pines (*Callitris preissii*) is an opportunity for propagation to improve genetic diversity.



Photo by S Conlan

Callitris preissii within the River to Sea Green Corridor

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 government planners to look at development proposals with climate change and biodiversity conservation at the fore? One area of the council, namely, natural area managers may come up with a biodiversity conservation plan for their local government area but do local planners look at it?

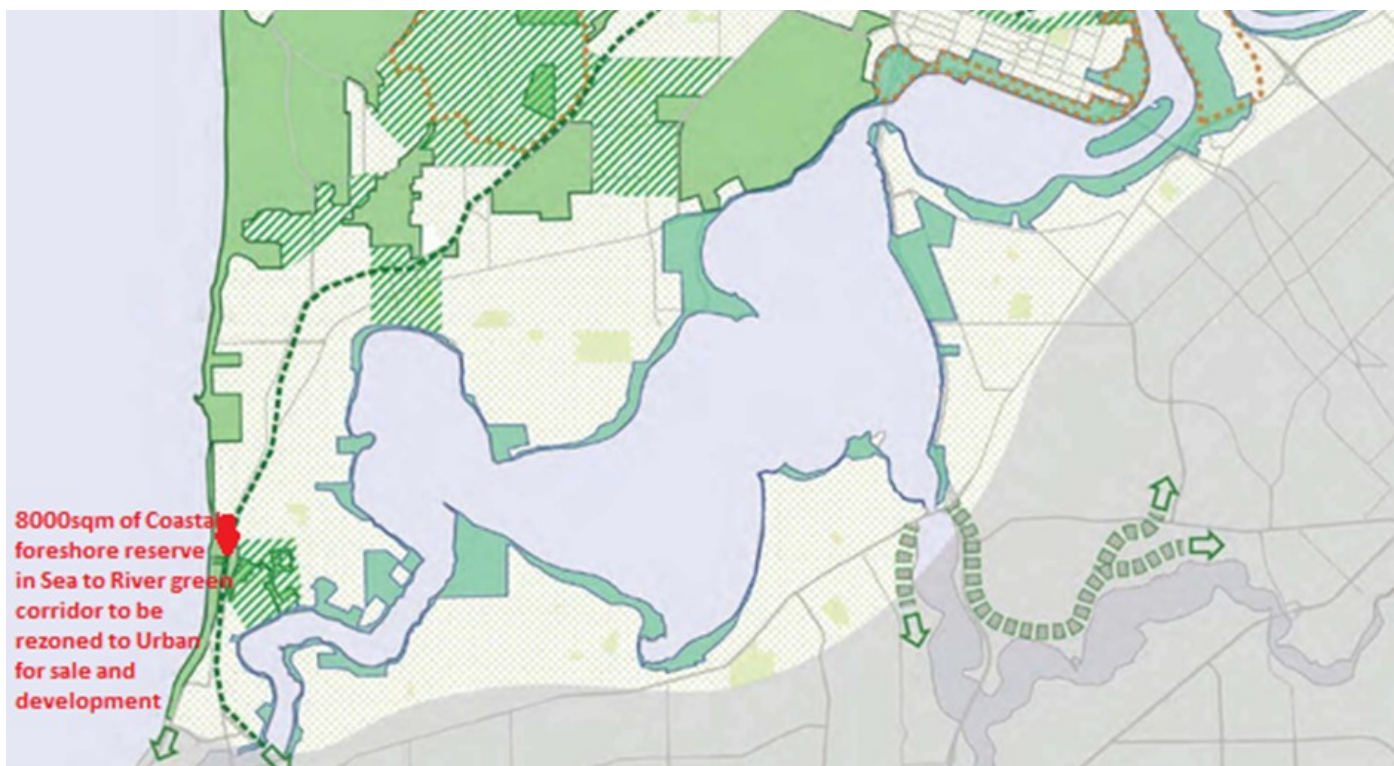
Living in an older green suburb, I don't want to lose any high value trees! We have to change our mindset from "it is just a tree, another one will replace it". This just does not happen! If a mature tree is removed another 9 trees should be planted to allow for survival, provision of shade, habitat and carbon capture.

The 'River to Sea' Green Corridor has been mapped in the WAPC's Capital City Planning Framework 2013



Photo: S Conlan

Coastal vegetation at the beach end of the 'River to Sea' link, in the Town of Cottesloe



Green Infrastructure Plan for the Capital City Planning Framework (WAPC, 2013) recognised the importance of remaining vegetation in the Towns of Mosman Park and Cottesloe. The new re-zoning proposal for a portion of land within the corridor is threatening the green corridor.

Green Infrastructure. More recently, ecological linkage overlaps this area in the Sub-regional Planning Framework for Perth and Peel.

In the Green Infrastructure plan of the Capital City Planning Framework, the block green colour shows our bush and corridors. Hashed green shows where the green links need strengthening by landscaping the streetscapes, with native verge treatments and encouraging houses to have gardens for nature.

Where are we with our campaign? Because this rezoning for development effects two councils, we contacted councillors from both local governments who opposed officer recommendations to approve the re-zoning proposal at their council meeting. We also contacted our neighbouring bushland group, the Cottesloe Coastcare Association and the Residents and Ratepayers association from both councils. A group of eight make up the active campaign team.

Letters have been written to new ministers for Planning, Environment, Culture and Heritage, 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 have offered for us to present when the committee meets to progress the rezoning.

We have met with our council executive of planning with the information we have found and the community concerns over the supporting document that was given to our council by WAPC to make their decision to give 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, endorsed in 1998, called the Vlamingh Parklands Final Report for this area 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.



Photo by S Conlan



Photo by S Conlan

Enthusiastic locals on a walk along the River to Sea Green Corridor.

Group News Group News Group News

Allen Park Bushland Group 20 years on
2017 was the 20th anniversary of our bushland group and cause to reflect on our achievements past and present. Ironically, the issue in 1993 that gave cause to the formation of **Friends of Allen Park** 4 years later arose again, much to our horror. It all revolved around Lot 353, the “Walkway”, and a colloquial term for a popular thoroughfare across a corner of Allen Park’s bushland.



Photo by L. Shaw

Marris at ‘Walkaway’

To cut a long story short, in 1993 the Walkway was at risk of becoming a retirement village that was in fact nothing more than an over 55’s development of town houses and the community was outraged. Going back a bit further to 1978, the Minister for Lands issued a Conditional freehold title over Lot 353, granting it to the City of Nedlands to be used for a specific purpose, which at that time the Council nominated to be a “Home for the Aged”. Some may recall that there was huge financial risk in the process of the sale of land to a developer, followed by a lengthy court battle, which resulted in a win for the community and the Council being sacked. The Allen Park community, reeling from the shock that such a beautiful area with its large marris and tuarts could have been bowled over, moved quickly to have the land assessed, resulting in it being listed with the National Trust on its register of Classified Places. The land, through persistence of members in the community, was rezoned “Recreation” at Council in 1998, gazetted as “Recreation” in 2000, and has been managed for conservation ever since.



Photo by L. Shaw

Fast forward to 2017, and the Government’s Land Assets Sales Program identified the area as not being used for its perceived purpose of Aged Care under the complex vesting of 1978, and requested the 4000 square metres of bushland and walkway be transferred back to the State unless the Council could prove it was being used for another legitimate purpose that would fit with the original vesting. Under a deal that government attempted to strike with Council, one block of 1000 square metres would be sold off for housing and the remaining area of the Walkway would be amalgamated into the A Class Reserve. Unfortunately, the block they intended to sell, would destroy the connecting pedestrian and cycle walkway and would severely impact on the bushland. To reinstate a new walkway would be an expensive undertaking in both financial and environmental terms, involving the loss of more bushland, construction of retaining walls etc. The City of Nedlands would not be beneficiaries of this sale, as the money would go back into the State’s coffers.

Following a recent Master Plan of Allen Park, where there were many comments supporting the retention of the whole 4000 square metres of walkway and bushland, Council has now undertaken the required community consultation through advertisement inviting submissions for and against a request that the Minister for Lands transfers the Walkway in its entirety to A Class Reserve. The result was overwhelmingly in favour of formally incorporating the land into the surrounding Allen Park reserve, as A Class Reserve. A full meeting of the City of Nedlands Council on the 24th April agreed to proceed with the request to the Minister for Lot 353 in its entirety to be incorporated into A Class Reserve. This is heartening but by no means a “fait accompli”.

We now await the outcome. What came home to us is the importance of consolidating zoning and land tenure in Allen Park. A lesson for all.

Lesley Shaw

TRIGG BUSHLAND RESERVE

– A Short History

In 1985 well known and highly respected naturalist, author and ornithologist, Dr Vincent Serventy put his name and his time to the community campaign to stop a major road being built through tuart woodlands and Quindalup sand dunes in the Trigg Regional Open Space.

After plans were released by the Main Roads and the City of Stirling to extend Marmion Avenue in Karrinyup to West Coast Highway at Scarborough, conservationists and local residents began a community based campaign opposing the road. With the support of the Conservation Council of WA and conservationists from across the metropolitan area, locals formed a group called the Trigg Dune Heritage Group which spearheaded the campaign. By enlisting high profile scientists like Dr Serventy, public awareness was raised of the environmental damage that would be caused by the construction of a major four lane road through the coastal bushland reserve.

The environmental significance of the Trigg Regional Open Space had been identified by the System 6 Study Report to the Environmental Protection Authority in

Group News Group News Group News



Historical images courtesy Friends of Trigg Bushland

1981 as "...having conservation significance due to the rarity of reserved areas within the metropolitan area which provide an example of a belt of native vegetation extending from the sea to tuart and banksia woodland." The area had also been referred to the Australian Heritage Commission for listing on the Register of the National Estate in 1985.

The campaign to stop the road received widespread support and publicity but was ultimately unsuccessful and the road was built in 1986. (Documents and newspaper clippings of the campaign have been lodged with the Museum Curator at the City of Stirling). Soon afterwards, the Trigg Dune Heritage Group and the Scarborough Ratepayers Association petitioned the City of Stirling to hold a public meeting, the purpose of which was to gain permanent protection for the remaining bushland and sand dunes. At the meeting, the City of Stirling announced that the remnant Trigg Regional Open Space would be permanently protected and that vacant land north of the new road that was previously designated for housing, would now be amalgamated into the larger reserve.

In 1989 the 122ha making up the Trigg Regional Open Space was reclassified from a Class C Reserve to a Class A Reserve, the highest protection available. It had also achieved additional protection under the State Government's Bush Plan and is now Bush Forever Area 308, and includes the South Trigg Beach Reserve. Renamed the Trigg Bushland Reserve the land is vested in, and

managed for the community, by the City of Stirling for the purposes of conservation, passive recreation and education.

The Friends of Trigg Bushland was formed out of the Trigg Dune Heritage Group at a public meeting in 1990 and a Management Plan for the bushland was adopted by the City of Stirling in 1991. It was updated in 2015 and can be found on the City's website. The Friends group continues to hold regular activities in the reserve, conducts guided nature walks, removes weeds and rubbish, undertakes projects such as tuart mapping and assists the City with bush regeneration. Find information on the Friends of Trigg Bushland here <https://www.triggbushland.org.au/>

Robyn Murphy

Inaugural President of Friends of Trigg Bushland

WILDFLOWER SOCIETY OF WA-EASTERN SUBURBS BRANCH

Our monthly talks continue on the 4th Friday of the month, with Dr Neville Marchant talking on parasitic plants in May, Sean Tomlinson on insect pollination in June and Todd Buters on the use of drones in mine site rehabilitation in July. For more details see our website at <http://www.wildflowersocietywa.org.au/branches/eastern-hills-branch/>

Our propagation group continues to meet on every second Monday and our seed cleaning group on alternate Wednesdays for several months of the year. Check our website for more details.

PEOPLE POWER SAVED POINT PERON



"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

People Power Won – finally

You may have heard by now that the WA Minister for Planning Rita Saffioti has accepted the WA Planning Commission's (WAPC) recommendation to reject the proposed Mangles Bay Marina Metropolitan Region Scheme Major Amendment 1280/41 and has withdrawn the proposal. Finally some due diligence and competence prevailed.

Group News Group News Group News

You can read the full WAPC report here <https://www.planning.wa.gov.au/publications/7917.aspx>

It was for nearly 15 years that the community fought against the fatally flawed proposal and it showed what ordinary citizens can ultimately achieve by banding together and never giving up. It really is quite an historic precedent for the WAPC to make a decision like this and to recommend against a government initiated and supported project.

The WAPC decision to recommend against the MRS amendment was the turning point because it would have been very hard for the WA Planning Minister to go against the WAPC's recommendation which they based on the large number of submissions they received. For example the Hands Off Point Peron Inc. (HOPP) submission was 600 pages across 3 volumes.

Getting all the evidence against the proposal onto the public record was crucial because without the public contributing to the assessment process by putting in their own submissions, the WAPC would be relying solely on the information that the proponents/developers gave them.

History has shown that developers tend to only include the information that they want a decision based on in their assessment reports, and they often leave out crucial factors. For example, we know that both the State and Federal Governments granted environmental approvals without any consideration of our Little Penguins who feed in Mangles Bay.

This is not uncommon in our environmental assessment processes in WA. That is why environmental groups are forever protesting – because our current environmental laws are either too weak, have major gaps, or are not properly and rigorously used. Significant changes to our environmental and planning laws are needed, but disappointingly there is an absence by major party politicians to fix them.

The HOPP campaign was very much an evidence based campaign using the facts and public interest grounds to argue the case against the proposal. Actions included intense and prolonged lobbying of all levels of Government, petitions, protests, public meetings, rallies and distribution of tens of thousands of information flyers in the Rockingham region over a 10 year period.

BUT the community should never have had to do all this. It is not right that ordinary citizens were forced to become activists in the public interest of protection of our precious natural environment.

Reflections on learnings from this hard fought win:

- ♦ All three levels of Government had a hand in this proposal progressing as far as it did.
- ♦ Before the State Government became involved, they asked the City of Rockingham if they supported the proposal. The City at the time was heavily weighted with members of the Liberal party whose support for the Mangles Bay Mega-Canal continues to this day. The point is that local council elections do matter.

- ♦ Local councillors are not expected to be scientists or engineers but even a cursory glance at the proposal by our local councillors at the time would have revealed that one way or another, the public would have ended up picking up the tab for the constant dredging that would have been required to keep this mega-canal marina from silting up.
- ♦ It is a myth that local council is just about rubbish collection and roads. They have a lot more indirect 'influence' than people realise should they choose to exercise it. It was clear from the outset for anyone who looked closely at the proposal, that it had numerous flaws and breaches of State Planning Policies.

The fact is millions of taxpayer dollars were wasted on this fundamentally flawed proposal. All along the drawn out assessment process, many people in government simply were not doing their jobs properly. This included the EPA - which is supposed to be an independent authority giving advice according to the objectives of the Environmental Protection Act.

So it was left to ordinary concerned citizens, hundreds of them, who banded together and built the case to show that the evidence against the proposal was simply overwhelming. Together the community made sure that all the evidence was on the table; on the public record. The community made politicians and the WAPC accountable and made them all understand that the people would forever hold them to account should they decide to proceed with the development.

It is crucial now that we remain vigilant in resisting future attempts to urbanise Point Peron, because they may be back, perhaps on a smaller scale.

The best insurance against the urbanisation of Point Peron is to make sure that the area now becomes an 'A' Class reserve as was always intended for this public land under the conditions stipulated in the 1964 Point Peron Land Transfer Agreement.

The community must now continue to lobby for and build support for the tourism and jobs rich Cape Peron Coastal Park option – Rockingham's Kings Park of the South.

*Dawn Jecks
Founder of Hands Off Point Peron Inc.*

Lessons from a 13 year struggle to save Cape Peron

Seize every opportunity to wrap things up. The proposal to build the Mangles Bay Marina could have been knocked on the head by the Carpenter Government before it lost the unlosable election in 2008 but we failed to lobby the government at the time.

Work together. Opposing such a proposal calls for a multi-pronged campaign in which 'blue', 'pink', light green and deep green need to work together and keep focus on the big picture. This calls for lots of listening and creative consensus making. Some of my best friends are former naval officers who would never vote the way I do!

Group News Group News Group News

Don't just focus on environment but include other relevant issues. To elicit support across the community, campaigns need to focus on issues outside of the environmental ones - planning, social, financial, business. We tried to enlist those thousands of people who had spent holidays or school camps down at Cape Peron but it proved too difficult.

Don't rely on environmental issues alone. Environmental protection is not robust enough to withstand pressure from gung-ho politicians, well-funded developers and compromised councils. Officially the Mangles Bay Marina (MBM) proposal collapsed, not because of the host of environmental problems, but because the WAPC found unacceptable inconsistency with six planning policies and issues. Nevertheless the constant and increasing pressure over environmental issues was vital.

Record keeping. Someone with the skills and interest needs to maintain data bases of correspondence, newspaper articles and official reports on pdf files for easy referencing.

Seeing is believing. A scale model (1.2m x 2.4m) showing the extent of a proposal was invaluable in helping people to grasp the size of the impact on the Bush Forever site.

Where we are now

Friends of Point Peron (FPP) was founded by James Mumme in 2006 in response to letters in the local Rockingham papers saying that the Cape was full of rubbish and weeds and needed a marina. The initial idea was for people to adopt patches of bush and look after them in their own time. For eight years we pulled out Geraldton Carnation weed, removed tons of rubbish, and planted over 6,000 seedlings with good support from Parks and Wildlife. An elderly couple would carry two litre bottles



Photos by R Britza
Ensuring volunteers know the difference between buckthorn (*Rhamnus alaternus*) and Brazilian pepper (*Schinus terebinthifolia*) so that they use the best treatment and do not cut the latter unless they are going to remove it entirely.

of water to their seedlings at Bert and Belle's patch - they even made a sign.

Then work stopped as key members became involved with researching, lobbying and writing submissions to the EPA, the Appeals Convenor, the Federal Department of Environment, the City of Rockingham, Landcorp, politi-

cians, newspapers and lately the WA Planning Commission.

In May last year hope revived. So did FPP. We began tackling Carnation weeds again. With great support from Parks and Wildlife we have also been tackling woody weeds - Brazilian Peppers and Buckthorn - which have gone feral during the time the MBM was hanging over the Park. So far this year, over 130 volunteers have taken part in 25 clean-ups to deal with thousands of each weed.

In this post MBM era, elements in the local community, and perhaps government, are still eyeing the Cape for development. *Bush Forever sites are not yet well enough valued or protected to ensure they are beyond bulldozing.* A recent letter talked about the 'scrub' being perfect for a caravan park!

FPP is demonstrating to the community and to decision-makers that people *do* care about the Park and are willing to get their hands dirty and their shirts sweaty. We are also supporting Parks and Wildlife's work on a large and difficult to manage Park, and we are all preparing for the eventual '**King's Park of the South**' (or whatever it will be called).

*James Mumme
Founder of Friend of Point Peron*

Murdoch Branch, Wildflower Society of WA Frankland Park reserve, Sunday 20 May 10am

Come along to a walk in Frankland Park reserve, Hammond Park led by Angela Jakob and Diana Corbyn to see the Banksia woodland, a Threatened Ecological Community (TEC), currently under consideration for substantial clearing.

Meeting point is the north west corner of Frankland Park at the kissing gate. Cars travel fast along Wattleup Road and the verge is sandy. Parking in Jennings Street (new street across the road) is therefore recommended. Cross the road carefully. The tracks are sandy so make sure you wear suitable shoes. It will be interesting to see what is flowering in May. Cameras welcome!

Diana Corbyn

Cockburn Community Wildlife Corridor

Join us in the bushland of Sebastian Crescent to target weeds around regrowth and woody weeds on the edges of the cleared area. We just may spot the elusive Quendas that still inhabit this corner of our corridor. Diana Corbyn our Bushcare Working Group convenor and Matt Grimbly of SERCUL will be leading us.

Saturday May 19th 2018 8.00am - 10.00am

Meet at the playground on the corner of Sebastian Crescent and Cordelia Avenue, Coolbellup

Gloves, tools and morning tea will be provided. Please bring water and wear enclosed footwear, suitable clothing, sunscreen and a hat. Please register by following this link <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/handweeding-with-the-quendas-saturday-may-19th-tickets-46040907594>

*Diana Corbyn and Kellie Ratcliff
Bush-care Working Group*



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Urban Bushland Council's Events

TALKS

Tuesday 21 June

NEVER AGAIN: Reflections on Environmental Responsibility After Roe 8

Guest speakers Andrea Gaynor, Peter Newman and Philip Jennings, Editors of Never Again

Thursday 12 July

Digging Around in Our Bushland: What is Happening with Quenda and their Mates?

Guest speaker: A/Prof Trish Fleming

For all talks meet at 6pm for light refreshments, then 6.30pm start
City West Lotteries House, 2 Delhi St West Perth

Saturday 30 June from 10.00am to 12.00

Guided Walk - Woodman Point Regional Park

Organisers: Bronwen and Greg Keighery, Julia Cullity and Lyle Wood.

Meeting point TBC <https://www.bushlandperth.org.au/events/>

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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