

Precious Banksia woodland benefits from long term partnerships

By Margaret Matthews

Wireless Hill Park in Booragoon is an extremely valuable Banksia Woodland reserve with high biodiversity including large numbers of orchids. The Friends of Wireless Hill work in partnership with the City of Melville to preserve this precious asset.

Wireless Hill was cleared in 1912 for a telegraph station and South African perennial veldt grass was planted to stabilise the soil. The bush regenerated but weeds remain, contributing to the fuel load and competing with native grasses and other plants. Other major weeds in the park include Gladioli and Freesia, bulbous weeds well adapted to our dry environment.

The Friends work all over the Park but since 2009 we have had an agreement with the City of Melville that we will be responsible for hand weeding about 5.4 hectares portion of the Park in the South-East corner, which is the area of best condition bushland and where the popular signed Wildflower Walk is located. The Friends were concerned that trying to control weeds by spraying was leading to long term loss of biodiversity in the bush as we observed that even supposedly grass-specific sprays killed orchids and emerging marri seedlings as well as native grasses.

Since 2013 the Friends have also taken responsibility for hand weeding the adjacent bushland area, between the footpath to Davy Street and the Council offices (see page 2).

We have found that removing



Friends of Wireless Hill leading a guided walk for staff from Alcoa's office in Booragoon, including the Alcoa of Australia Chairman and Managing Director Michael Parker.

weeds by hand, rather than chemically, facilitates a much quicker and more diverse recovery of native vegetation.

We also have a longstanding partnership with the Swan River Trust and Alcoa Landcare Program (SALP). Since receiving our first SALP grant in 2011 we have employed qualified bushcare workers from the South East Region Centre for Urban Landcare (SERCUL) to assist us with hand weeding.

The success of the Swan Alcoa Landcare Program (SALP) in delivering environmental outcomes for the Swan and Canning River catchments has been recognised [at the 2018 National Landcare awards](#). SALP made the finals of the Partnership Category of the national awards, presented in Brisbane on October 11.

WA Environment Minister Stephen Dawson took the opportunity to praise the partnership – between Alcoa, Perth NRM

and the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions – as a successful model of industry, government and community working together.

[SALP](#) was established in 1998 to provide community groups with a simple process to access funding for a wide range of landcare activities throughout the catchments. In the last 20 years, SALP has provided \$8.5 million to fund 1,351 projects carried out by more than 40 community groups. In that time, more than 2.6 million seedlings have been planted re-vegetating nearly 2,000 hectares of degraded land.

(Continued on page 2)

Inside this issue:

Wanneroo Burns Reserves	3
Wildflower Society WA Turns 60	3
Group News	4

Editorial

The 25th October saw the launch of the Conservation Council's *cleanstate* campaign to raise awareness and action on climate change. Their focus is on the urgent need for action to reduce gas emissions and LNG production and to shift to renewable energy. See the website www.cleanstate.org.au

The WA State Government still has no climate change policy or action plan for transition to 100% renewable energy. And there is no effective action by the national government. Yet we have in the south west one of the world's 35 biodiversity hotspots *for conservation priority because they are under threat*. Our urban bushland in the Perth and Peel regions is threatened by clearing, warming and drying seasons, more erratic weather, excess fire, as well as falling groundwater levels.

While the heat island effect and actions to increase the 'urban forest' to increase cooling has gained public profile and interest by local government and state planners, it does not seem to be linked to the need for retention of the existing native vegetation and existing tree cover in suburbs. Surely it is obvious that we need to stop land clearing patch by patch rather than allowing our threatened bushland to continue to suffer the classic death of a thousand cuts. And it is time to end urban sprawl associated with clearing our now endangered Banksia Woodlands. Our WA clearing regulations under the EP Act need to be strengthened and enacted according to the clearing principles whereby native vegetation *should not be cleared*.

Native vegetation in forests, woodlands and shrublands provides a carbon sink reducing levels of planet-warming carbon dioxide in the atmosphere and provides us humans as well as animals fresh oxygen. 'Forests really are the unsung hero of our struggle to address climate change,' said University of Virginia professor Deborah Lawrence, one of 40 scientists who backed a statement emphasising how the Earth's climate depends on forests. The scientists noted that forests remove about a quarter of the carbon dioxide humans add to the atmosphere, keeping climate change from getting worse. In WA there is still a significant net loss of vegetation cover which is not being reported to us.

The UBC calls for an end to clearing of urban and near urban bushland. Rich in unique biodiversity and beauty and educational opportunities, we need to keep and protect our native vegetation patches and linkages in the interests of our health and health of future generations.

Have you visited and spoken with your local state and federal MP's in their electoral offices about these issues? They are there for you.

(Continued from page 1)

The Friends of Wireless Hill have also had an ongoing relationship with the closely located Alcoa office at Booragoon, with employees volunteering for Gladi pulls in the park over several years. Early in October, Alcoa of Australia Chairman and Managing Director Michael Parker toured Wireless Hill Reserve with some of the Friends and staff from the Alcoa office at Booragoon.

Since 2011 the Friends have also received Commonwealth Department of Environment and State NRM (Natural Resource Management) funding. We are currently working on a NRM funded project as well as the SALP funded project.



Wireless Hill Park. White hatching shows parts of the park where Friends of Wireless Hill undertake hand weeding as the only weed control technique.

Urban Bush Telegraph 2019

The UBC Committee has recently agreed that, from 2019, we will start charging for the printed copy of UBT.

The charge will be \$15 per year to cover printing and postage costs for 4 editions per year. There will be no charge for the electronic copy which all members receive via email link. The UBT can also be downloaded from the UBC website.

This step has been taken to help UBC manage its budget whilst keeping our annual fees at \$45 for Group membership and \$35 for supporters.

NEWSLETTER ITEMS

Compiled by: Renata Zelinova

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

Copy deadline - 21 January 2019



*Season's Greetings and best wishes
to all in 2019*

WANNEROO BURNS RESERVES

By Margaret Owen

It was by accident we found out that there was a plan that Landsdale Reserve in the City of Wanneroo was to be partly burnt in a prescribed burn.

Further to that we then found that 20 Reserves in the City were to be burnt.

Landsdale Reserve is a Bush Forever site and a Threatened Ecological Community 20a - '*Banksia attenuata* woodlands over species-rich dense understory'. It is in excellent condition with very few weeds.

There had been no consultation with the Friends of Landsdale Reserve. The Urban Bushland Council arranged to meet the City officers involved in this decision on site.

We were informed that DFES had made a classification that Landsdale and the other 19 reserves were 'extreme' fire dangers. As such, the City is obligated to act, we were told, and the way to reduce danger to the community was to burn part of the Reserve now, a further part next year and the last part the year after. This cycle is proposed to be repeated every 7 years.

We strongly objected to burning, particularly in late spring, and particularly over such a short cycle. We suggested alternatives but were told there was no chance of turning this decision around.

TECs such as Landsdale Reserve '*are very restricted in distribution and are the richest of any Banksia community found on the Swan Coastal Plain*' (Interim Recovery Plan for Community SCP 20a. The Recovery plan also states that '*the frequency of fires*' '*weed invasion*' and '*hydrological change*' '*can all lead to degradation of vegetation and alteration of structure, species composition or loss of component taxa.*'

It was later that we learnt that the City of Wanneroo had bulldozed yet another firebreak right across the Reserve. Burning is continuing in the City's bushland conservation reserves.



Section of Landsdale Bushland after the prescribed burn completed in mid-November.

60 YEARS OF PRESERVING WA'S WILDFLOWER HERITAGE

By Bronwen Keighery

The Wildflower Society of Western Australia (Society) is 60 years old in 2018 having begun in 1958. Since the beginning the Society has brought together people who are fascinated by the state's wildflowers and hold with a Society motto 'Wildflowers are our Heritage'. The Society works to preserve this heritage through four areas: know, grow and conserve, however, the over arching approach is to enjoy and celebrate our wildflowers.

Our wildflowers are the State's flora. The Society philosophy of conservation of the beautiful and unique wildflowers of the West is encapsulated in ten principles of flora conservation, each relating to: heritage, ecology, responsibility, intrinsic value, botany, preservation, rare and endangered flora and communities, human impact, education, and cultivation. A couple of these are reproduced below.

Ecology - Natural bushland is quintessential to this heritage. Human beings cannot reproduce the complexity and diversity of species and their ecology that have evolved over millions of years.

Education - The community has a right to know about, care about and enjoy our floral heritage. Community involvement and education are conducive to caring and enjoyment. Our children have the same rights. Furthermore, all children have the right of access to bushland within walking distance of home and school."



Photo by M Owen

While officially adopted by the Society in 1991 these have underlined the Society ethos since its inception. The complete set of principles can be found on our web page.

Day to day Society activities are organised through eleven Branches, six in the greater Perth area – Armadale, Darling Range, Eastern Hills, Murdoch, Northern Suburbs and Perth and five in the Southwest – Albany, Kulin, Merredin, South West Capes and York. There are a myriad of activities offered by individual branches, including monthly talks, guided bushland walks and cultivating wildflowers, many of which are also open to the general public. There are many opportunities for learning, exploration and camaraderie.

The Society is an incorporated group and the overarching management of the Society is through the elected Management Committee. Society work on areas such as conservation, education, bushland plant survey are organised through a number of subcommittees associated with the Management Committee. Through these groups the Society provides considered, professional responses to Local, State and Commonwealth governments. The survey

(Continued on page 4)

Visit and Walk at Hepburn and Pinnaroo Bushland

By Margaret Owen

It was a great honour that 87-year-old Alan Lloyd, one of the leaders of the campaign to save Hepburn Heights Bushland, was able to come at the start of the UBC and Friends of Hepburn and Pinnaroo Bushland walk to cheer us on.

Alan wrote a book about the intense fight by the community to save Hepburn Heights Bushland from a government intent on bulldozing the bushland for housing. The book is called 'Saving Hepburn Heights Bushland: The Saga of the Hepburn Heights Bushland Reserve Campaign' and is published with the support of the City of Joondalup. The really gripping story of the campaign is told and the book is still available from the Friends of Hepburn Heights and Pinnaroo Bushland by contacting John Hudson on email friendsofhepburnpinnaroo-bush@gmail.com or mobile 0427 017 131.

The Urban Bushland Council was established as a consequence of the Hepburn Heights 1993 campaign, 'to represent and support all groups involved in the preservation of WA urban bushland'. Alas, similar terrible confrontations have happened since that time.

Alan said that the survival of the bushland was a tribute to community action. He also singled out the Wanneroo Times and the wider media for their support and expressed thanks to the Urban Bushland Council for its work over twenty years.

The twenty-strong group walk participants set off in the rain on Saturday October 13. The rain cleared quickly and the bushland sparkled in the sunlight. Carnaby's Cockatoos had been feeding on *Banksia sessilis* and other



Walk participants consulting reference books to assist with plant identifications.

Banksias and had been after grubs in the *Acacia salignas*. We heard them flying over the bushland the whole time.

On the southern side a Little Falcon, known as a Hobbie, perched on a stag tree and made swift forays from the branch in search of food and returned to the perch many times. While we were appreciative of that scene, we also were admiring some spider orchids, still flowering, and a spider's palisaded burrow.

The many trunks of the *Eucalyptus decipiens* created lovely groves and we consulted books there to identify some of the flowering plants.

This bushland walk was very lovely and a visit is highly recommended. However make sure you put on spray to deter ticks.



Little falcon or Hobby at Hepburn Heights.



Photo by M Owen

John Hudson pointing out the route the group would take.

(Continued from page 3)

group of the Society conducts original research in the form of flora surveys. Many of these areas would never be surveyed, nor their botanical worth known, if not for the rigorous work undertaken by the Society.

The Society is held in high regard for the quality of its work and its opinion on matters relating to the conservation of our flora. The Society is fully independent, supported only by memberships and donations. The Society has never accepted funds that could be seen to conflict with its conservation ethos, and has a proud reputation for impartiality. To support our work on bushland con-

servation the Society has a 'Bushland Conservation Fund' to receive tax-deductible donations. A substantial bequest to the Society has allowed the Society to offer a grants program, for which applications can be made between July and September each year. Applications can come from within the Society and outside the Society, if they involve a Society member.

The history, organisation and work of the Society and each of its branches is showcased in our website including a 'members only' section for access to the newsletter, updates, branch and committee contacts, and 'members only' events - <http://www.wildflowersocietywa.org.au>.

Group News Group News Group News

Wildflower Season at Paganoni Swamp Reserve

It's wildflower season at Paganoni Swamp Reserve and the yellow, white, blue and mauve flowers are displaying their beauty. With the abundant rainfall we have had the winter wet swamp still has standing water which adds to the delight.

Friends of Paganoni Swamp have been busy keeping the weeds at bay but we could not do this without the grants provided by our State Government NRM grant for control of the major weed species and Swan Alcoa Landcare Program (SALP) (which also included restoration works in the Upper Swamp), together with the City of Rockingham grant to manage the Paganoni Road verge, Main Roads for its revegetation efforts in the same area and Public Transport Authority for weed control on the railway batters. We also rely on SERCUL (South East Regional Centre for Urban Landcare) as our funding sponsor.

There are so many different stakeholders involved in successfully working in our bushland, not to mention the valuable work carried out by Department of Biodiversity Conservation and Attractions (DBCA) staff. We would like to acknowledge the fantastic contribution of Kate Brown, DBCA to the success of our work at Paganoni Swamp Reserve and wish her the best of luck whatever her plans. We will miss her invaluable advice so very much.

Gahnia trifida was the main species planted this year in the Upper Swamp. It was fortunate because so much of the wetland was inundated which is a pretty special event as it occurs so rarely now. Some of these seedlings were protected by our new mobile fencing as an alternative to



Photo by L. Stubbs

Melaleuca raphiopylla seedlings in Upper Swamp.



Photo by L. Stubbs

Mobile fence used by the Friends of Paganoni Swamp to protect revegetation sites.

the individual plastic sleeves. After a few years we will move the fencing to protect another revegetated patch.

The other restored area in the Upper Swamp is protected by a more permanent fence. It has responded extraordinarily to the exclusion of kangaroos. Grass and herb species not present outside of the fence are flourishing. Of course exotic grasses within the fenced area need to be controlled as they are also flourishing!

Natural revegetation has occurred outside our fenced areas as well, in particular *Melaleuca raphiopylla* seedlings. In over ten years working at Paganoni Swamp Reserve we have never seen so many seedlings. It's truly amazing.....as are so many aspects of our native bushland!

Leonie Stubbs

WILDFLOWER SOCIETY OF WA EASTERN HILLS BRANCH

On November 23rd, we will have our AGM which will include a talk by Penny Hussey on some of her wildflower meanderings in the Mediterranean region.

For more details:

<http://www.wildflowersocietywa.org.au/branches/eastern-hills-branch>

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/easternhillswildflowersoc/>

Friends of Point Peron

In September, SERCUL team plus some members of Friends of Point Peron spent 55 hours taking at least 10 cubic metres of Geraldton carnation weed (*Euphorbia terracina*) from 200 square metres along Memorial Drive in Cape Peron Reserve. It's going to be a challenging year for both weeds and bushfires. This was the most weed per metre that has been seen of in the 12 years that Friends of Point Peron (FPP) has been looking after Cape Peron Reserve.

Group News Group News Group News

The weeding follows up FPP's removal of over 12,000 woody weeds - Brazilian peppers (*Schinus terebinthifolia*) and Buckthorn (*Rhamnus alaternus*) from the eastern portion of the reserve. FPP also managed to plant 900 seedlings bought with donated funds in preparation for DBCA's forthcoming Recreation Management Plan for the Reserve and hoped for upgrades of paths, signage and facilities to create a Cape Peron Coastal Park that so many have been wishing for since 2006 when the Mangles Bay Marina began to threaten.



Photo by I Streickhardt

Geraldton Carnation weed (*Euphorbia terracina*) infested site prior targeted weed control at Cape Peron Reserve.



Photo by I Streickhardt

The site pictured above following the removal of Geraldton Carnation weed by SERCUL team and volunteers.

Since 2014 when many members of FPP stopped weeding and planting in order to write submissions and lobby MPS and the public, the weeds have gotten away on us. Then the Department of Parks and Wildlife took a back step during that period understandably because of the likelihood that the Reserve would be decimated.

Next year FPP hopes to continue eradicating the woody weeds over the summer and then in winter resume planting. Meantime an application for a share of the Regional Park grant funding has been submitted to the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions. Funding is sought to develop signage explaining the ecological values and processes of the Cape - tuarts, quenda and fungi, and the processes of acacia regeneration so that ill-informed people don't go complaining about 'ugly scrub'.

James Mumme

Friends of Mosman Park Bushland - Young Ones Loving our Bushland

Minim Cove Park on the Swan River in Mosman Park is a great place for a school excursion! How lucky to have a local teacher from St Hilda's Primary School endearing it to her 24, year one students and 6 parents. Friends of Mosman Park Bushland have been working to conserve



Photo courtesy St Hilda's Primary School

A teacher and students from St Hilda's Primary School beside the Swan River where the sea mullet were caught.

and restore riparian vegetation here for 10 years. We were the perfect teachers! Our bushland is bursting with stories!

As part of their schooling the students had already learnt how the Noongar Whadjuks had lived in the area so to see where the sea mullet were caught after spawning upstream and to imagine the feasting and ceremony as the Whadjuk families came together here would be memorable.

Our signature riparian plants, *Boronia alata* (pink flower) and *Alyxia buxifolia* were at eye level. The aromatic leaves of Boronia and Peppermints could have been used as a readily available, no packaging perfume. To see plants, *Macrozamia reidleyi* with huge pineapple looking fruit, which were around at the same time as dinosaurs appealed to their imagination and the plump green pods of the Hardenbergia looked almost edible.



Photo courtesy St Hilda's Primary School

Sue Conlan, Friends of Mosman Park and students sitting at Point Roe in a circle as the Whadjuk would have met.

Group News Group News Group News

Was it the mother duck and several ducklings, the striking colours of the pied oyster catcher or the dolphin that made their day?

The best comment for the day was from a tiny child summing the volunteers up by saying we are looking after the bushland for when the Aborigines come back to live. We may have stopped weeding for some time that day but it was well worth it.

Sue Conlan

Friends of Underwood Avenue Bushland Keeping a Bushland Diary

Returning from Cue on 6th January 2002, the very sad and bad news of a bushfire burning in Underwood Avenue Bushland, Shenton Park was broadcast. The campaign to protect this University of Western Australia-owned bushland from becoming a housing estate had been in action for some years. Although the fire was reported to be slow-moving, the after-effects were devastating to the bush. The understory had been all but totally destroyed. Wind was blowing the ash around and tree trunks were still smouldering. Some trees had fallen and all that remained of them was their fallen shape set out in ash.

The embracing trees are two venerable jarrahs whose canopy branches had intertwined, forming a huge archway and the main track passed underneath. The embracing trees were registered as an Aboriginal site, along with two camp-sites in the bushland as well as the whole Underwood Bushland. However, under the Liberal government hundreds of sites were removed from the register, including these Underwood sites.

At the embracing trees a 'yip, yip, yip, yip, yip....' was heard. It was a juvenile bird of prey - a Sparrow-hawk, heavily splashed on the chest with vertical brown blotches. This was a wonderful sight to see.

Pyrophylic beetles had flown in, having detected infrared radiation and chemicals in the smoke.

Later that day, I started keeping a bushland diary.

Three days later, I was able to go to the bushland again. Two parent Sparrowhawks and their two juveniles were perched close to the nest. The family had survived the fire.

Through all the destruction, the efforts of creatures to carry on was fascinating. The diary entry was:

'...I noticed that a bull ant was bringing small leaves and placing them around the ants' entrance hole, perhaps to camouflage the entrance. One bull ant emerged from his hole carrying one grain of sand. This was a touching example of how long the process of reconstruction will take. I think it was Albert Camus who wrote that "Life is the chain of daily gestures" but sometimes devastation and disaster interrupts that path.'

Another three days later:

'After heavy rain and lightning and thunder last night, the bull ants were active at their nests but because the sand was sticking together they were able to carry a little bundle of sand out from their nests which they deposited ten centimetres away at the bottom of the slope.'

'seed cases on Banksia, Hakea and Casuarina were wide open.'

A diary record from 19 April 2002 recorded 'an amazing incident':

'I saw a bee writhing on the ground and upon investigation, saw that a medium sized black ant... was wrestling with it. I was just getting the pair into focus when, whoosh, in the blinking of an eye they both vanished into a hole covered by a trap door. To the eye or even through the camera lens you could not see the edge of the door. About 20 seconds later the ant was ejected from the burrow and I could see an orange thing in its jaws. I was not sure if it was some pollen or the sting in its jaws. It kept wiping its antennae and its face as if trying to remove it. Finally, the sting had gone and the ant wandered on. He seemed to be a bit groggy (perhaps stung).'

The diary continued over years. On 11.9.2006, an event took place that was bemusing and unique.



Photo by M Owen

Group News Group News Group News

'I heard a noise and looking up saw lots of white feathers falling from the sky but there was no bird of prey about. I couldn't work out where the feathers were coming from but then I saw a nest in a Banksia attenuata about 3 m from the ground. Then I saw two Yellow-rumped Thornbills with big balls of feathers in their bills, taking them to feather their nest. I could see the false nest on top of the spherical nest below'.

Then a week later in the diary I'd written:

'When I returned to the nest 7 days later the nest was deserted and there was a broken egg shell on the ground. The eggshell had small red spots on one end. I wondered what happened.'

Twelve years after the 2002 fire, on 11 January 2014, on a 40-degree day with a roaring easterly wind, a fire started from a fault in power poles on the south side of the bushland. Dry Veldt Grass ignited and 95% of the bushland, right through to Brockway Road, was burnt. The only parts unburnt were along Selby Street and along Underwood Avenue - because the helitankers dropped water on these edges.

Carnaby's Cockatoos flew into the bushland the day after this fire. Banksia and Hakea seed capsules had opened and as well, seeds were on the ground. Carnaby's, whose roost site is on the corner of Underwood Bushland and in tall trees at that intersection took advantage of the nutritious seeds in the bushland, flying there from 5.30am. Flocks from both the Hollywood and the Perry Lakes

roost site flew into the bush, coming together to take advantage of the windfall - the available seeds. On eight occasions in February 2014, Carnaby's were in the bushland. Forest Red-tailed Black Cockatoos also were in the bushland after jarrah seeds.

In the month of April 2014, flocks of Carnaby's went into Underwood on 16 occasions after leaving the roost site.

On 3 April, 188 Carnaby's went east foraging through the *Banksia prionotes* area, then south through the bush along Selby Street and then west up the bush near the Paraquad boundary. This was for two and three quarters hours.

So my diary has continued until the present day. I recommend keeping a diary of your bushland visits. Records provide data so that you can speak with authority when necessary and you can argue a case.

Margaret Owen

Baigup Wetlands

2018 has been a fabulous year for Baigup Wetland Interest Group (BWIG). Over the last two years our precious riverside reserve has received consistent and intensive management from both sets of managers: Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage (DPLH) (thanks Damien Agnew) for the WAPC owns 11.2 ha on the Bayswater side of the wetland border, and City of Bayswater (thanks Alex Devine) for managing the Crown Reserve comprising the 5.2 ha Maylands end.

The most encouraging feature is the way weed management is being sustained right across the reserve for the first time with regular return visits from Natural Area contractors (thanks Eloise, Matt and others) who are now thoroughly familiar with the whole site. Huge infestations of Pampas Grass have been brought under control by DPLH while Typha and Japanese Peppers are being eradicated throughout. City of Bayswater is creating greater native plant biodiversity at the Maylands end and BWIG is also using NA to clear exotic vines from a beautiful riverside area where they were smothering native trees and understorey.



Photo by M Clarke

Wildlife Exclusion Devices prevent baby birds being swept into culverts during high water events. The sandbags were used to hold the water back while vertical pipes were being installed on the original 1986 culverts here in the Primary Lake.

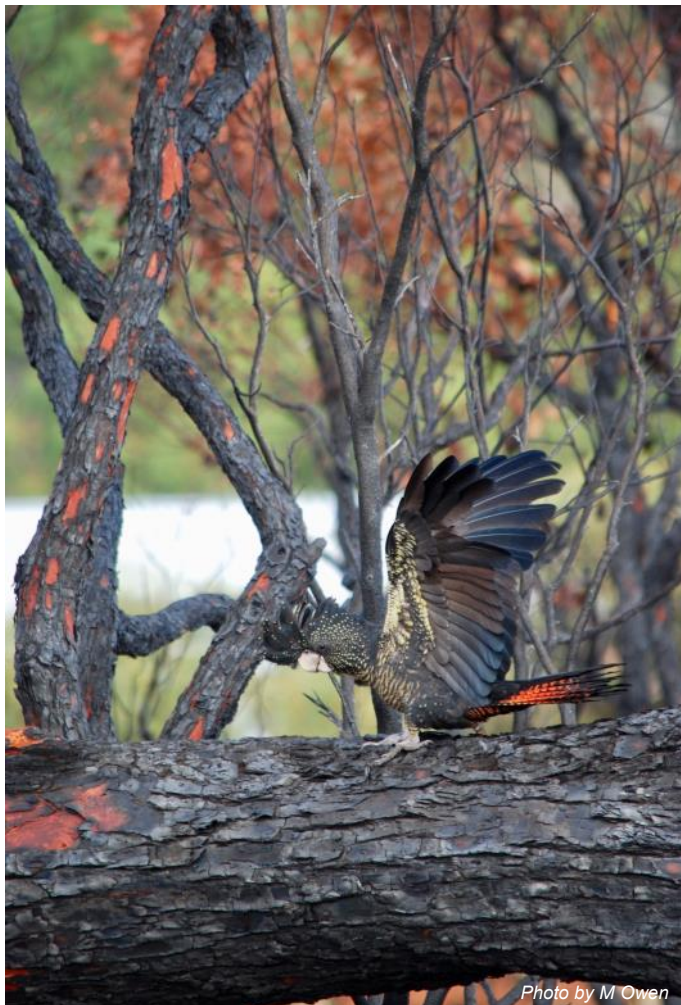


Photo by M Owen

Group News Group News Group News

Baigup has also had a bumper water bird breeding season with baby coots, moorhens and ducklings of all sizes easily observable on most visits. Baby birds are safer than they were in the past too.

Community Rivercare Program modifications to culverts to better control salt water ingress from the river and fresh water dispersal across the length of Baigup wetland have included innovative Wildlife Exclusion Devices designed by BWIG member Paul Adair (see photo).

Penny Lee

Quinns Rocks Environmental Group Inc What future Quinns Beach Bushland?

Located on the coast just south of the Quinns Rocks townsite is an important bushland area with an uncertain future. Lot 211 Quinns Road, Mindarie, covers 11.7ha, most of which is recognised as regionally significant for conservation (part of Bush Forever Area 397). The western portion of the lot includes the local surf lifesaving club and community centre, café/restaurant, former caravan park and car park.

The land is reserved Parks and Recreation in the Region Scheme but held freehold by the City of Wanneroo. The caravan park was closed in 2014 as it was run down and mainly catered to long-term residents. The City is now looking at commercially-run tourist development on the land. The form and extent of the development is uncertain, and that concerns local residents and the Quinns Rocks Environmental Group.

The bushland, known by some as Quinns Beach Bushland, is a relatively large and intact portion of the linear coastal reserve. Extending from the beach, the lot includes heathlands on limestone ridges with stands of Parrotbush (*Banksia sessilis*) that Carnaby's cockatoos visit and honeyeaters feed in regularly. Occurring here too, near the southern part of its distribution is Tangling hon-

ey-myrtle (*Melaleuca cardiophylla*). Through the Quinns Rocks Environmental Group, local residents have invested time in looking after the bushland – undertaking surveys, collecting seeds, litter, tackling weeds and planting degraded patches with the City. Given this positive partnership to protect the bushland, it is surprising that the bushland may now be under threat.

The City has engaged consultants to advise on the future use of the lot and has run community consultations. The size and nature of the tourist development is yet to be decided, however it seems that the whole area is in scope for the planning exercise. Indeed, at a workshop for local residents about the matter a participant asked about the Bush Forever designation covering the bushland. The consultant said Bush Forever was a misleading and unfortunate name, suggesting that it could be developed. A map shown at the workshop indicated most of the bushland is in good condition but commentary pointed to potential to develop poor quality parts or those not deemed as important for Carnaby's cockatoo.

The apparent lack of appreciation of the conservation value of the bushland raises questions about what will be proposed for the lot. The City intends seeking expressions of interest from commercial parties for development. Yet, many local residents have asked why 'development' is needed and raised alternatives like picnic and play areas where the caravan park was. Whilst the City's plans for Quinns Beach Bushland are uncertain, local residents have made it clear that they want the bushland retained and any development should be within the footprint of the old caravan park. Tourist use is possible but it should not be at the expense of this important bushland gem. Clearing and fragmentation of this natural asset is not necessary – let's make sure that this bushland is kept forever.

David Wake

◇ What's new? ◇ What's new?

◇ What's new? ◇ What's new?



HELP PREVENT THE SPREAD OF AMAZON FROGBIT *Limnobium laevigatum*

This is a floating aquatic plant that has escaped from private ponds into natural wetlands. In WA, it was first discovered in 2013 in Liege St wetlands in the City of Canning. This was followed by multiple outbreaks in the Metropolitan Perth.

Volunteers can assist with early identification of this highly invasive plant, working with land managers to actively hand remove infestations and notify SERCUL of any shops selling Amazon Frogbit.

For more information download the Amazon Frogbit flier from <https://www.sercul.org.au/our>

WILD CITY

Talks Series' Presentations

On November 5, westernWEB and Murdoch University hosted a series of talks that examined a range of native vegetation conservation issues within the growing urban footprint. Some of the talk presentations can be found on <https://westernweb.net/wild-city/>



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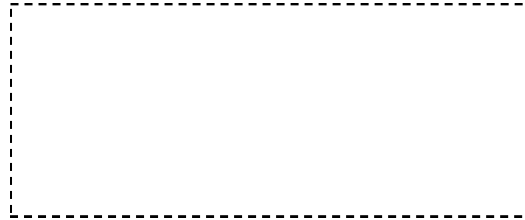
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Urban Bushland Council's Events

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Tuesday 5 March 6-8.30 pm

Guest speaker: Declan Doherty, Principal Solicitor, Environmental Defenders Office

Followed by Q&A session

2 Delhi Street West Perth

For more information go to <https://www.bushlandperth.org.au/events/>

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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). A growing membership strengthens the cause.

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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