



The Swan Estuary Reserves Action Group (SERAG) congratulates the Minister for Lands, Hon Ben Wyatt MLA, for his decision to retain as Crown Land the narrow ribbon of land bordering the Swan Estuary Marine Park at Alfred Cove.

Crown Land Lot 9789 had been identified for inclusion in the conservation estate as a buffer to this internationally significant and ecologically rich part of the River since the formation of the Swan Estuary Marine Park and Adjacent Nature Reserves Management Plan in 1999. Its importance was reinforced more recently in the Draft Green Growth Plan (2014), where it was identified for inclusion as a conservation reserve during Phase 1. Lot 9789 is also part of Bush Forever Site (BF) 331.

That its retention as Crown Land has prevented the construction of a massive artificial wave park and retail complex extending over 4.4 hectares of BF 331 has been welcomed by the Swan Estuary Reserves Action Group. Although we understand that no development application had been formally received by State

authorities, and available information about it was so loose that DBCA was unable to provide advice to the EPA about the proposed wave park's potential environmental impacts, concept plans endorsed by the City of Melville and provided to the public indicated a facility clearly unsympathetic to the nature of the site and detrimental to its sensitive ecological, natural and cultural heritage values.

However, while we are pleased with the Government's decision, the future of this part of the River foreshore remains insecure.

First, the principal area of BF 331 affected by the wave park proposal is designated for 'Parks and Recreation' under the Metropolitan Region Scheme. Unfortunately the term 'Recreation' could cover all manner of impactful and inappropriate constructions and uses.

Second, although the wave park complex was to be built wholly within the Swan Canning Development Control Ar-

ea, it was not to be assessed though the under the *Swan and Canning Rivers Management Act 2006* provisions. This Act 'aims to ensure that land use planning and development protects and enhances the ecological health, amenity and heritage value of the Swan Canning river system for the public benefit of Western Australia'. Its exclusion was due to the anomaly of a sliver of land, set aside for the widening of Canning Highway, being included in the development plan. As yet this loophole has not been resolved.

The Perth community has

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# Editorial

Autumn is here and some of the Banksias are in full bloom despite the absence of rain. *Banksia menziesii* is smartly adapted to our dry summers by storing water underground in its root system from winter rain so that it can produce flowers and provide nectar for birds and insects at the end of summer - early autumn, when others are not flowering.

Displays like this are worth seeing. So now is a good time to take children, family and friends for a quiet walk in our local bushland to observe and enjoy it. This is good for human health. Our primary school aged children benefit and learn from such visits. The importance of our local biodiversity to human health was presented at the 2019 Serventy Memorial Lecture presented by the Western Australian Naturalists' Club on March 26 (see page 12).

Public concern about climate change and the lack of government action to reduce emissions was raised again recently by school children demonstrating in Perth and world-wide. One key element of lack of action is our State Government's failure to properly fund, protect and manage our Bush Forever reserve system, our Banksia Woodlands, and wetlands, and to stop their clearing. A disturbing case is the damage being done by vandals, hoon riders and rubbish dumpers at the Anstey-Keane Dampland Bush Forever Area in Forrestdale. Acquisition of the last two Lots is now urgent in order to secure the whole area and prevent this off road entry. See details on pages 3 and 9.

A great proposal by the Friends of Forrestdale, supported by UBC, is for the Government to develop an Environmental/Education Centre and Management Depot at Lot 283 Commercial Road Forrestdale (see page 9). This would facilitate community and visitor engagement with nature, and especially enjoyment of water birds at the adjacent RAMSAR wetland of Forrestdale Lake. The Management Depot would provide for much needed DBCA staff.

The UBC encourages all Members and Supporters to meet with your local state MPs, both MLA's and MLC's, to express the need for greatly increased funding for management and protection of the whole Bush Forever reserve system. We also need to stop clearing our Banksia Woodlands. We need a moratorium on clearing our south west biodiversity hotspot and the wheatbelt.

## **REMINDER: Urban Bush Telegraph (UBT) 2019**

*In 2018, the UBC Committee agreed that, from 2019, we will start charging for the printed copy of UBT.*

*The charge is \$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 2018 level.*



Swan River estuary at Alfred Cove.

(Continued from page 1)

clearly demonstrated a desire that any future use of the site will protect and celebrate Alfred Cove's outstanding natural heritage and visual landscape values for their intrinsic worth, for their cultural importance, and for the benefit and enjoyment of present and future generations of the Perth community.

In the meantime, we are strongly advocating for the urgent incorporation of the Crown Land into the conservation estate, as planned and as a first step.

## UBC Annual General Meeting Photo Gallery



On March 5, the UBC held its AGM at the Lottery House in West Perth. Following the President's report by Mary Gray (standing on the right), Christine Richardson demonstrated the beneficial features of the UBC's updated website.



Hugh Finn, Curtin University Law School, gave a talk on the lack of adequate consideration of land clearing as an animal welfare issue, arguing the need for identifying and evaluating the harm that land clearing causes to animals and its consideration in decision-making.



During discussions, Dr Jane Chambers, Murdoch University, introduced a new initiative, NatureLink Perth. The aim of this vitally important initiative is to create a network of people to establish a holistic plan for future of Perth which will sustain the world-class biodiversity, wetlands and bushland through nature sensitive urban design.

Dr Chambers outlined the NatureLink Perth objectives in more detail at the UBC General Meeting held on April 15.

## Lemnos Street bushland

The WAPC's specialist committee, the Statutory Planning Committee, rejected an amended version of Landcorp's subdivision plan for the regionally significant bushland linkage between two Bush Forever sites. This saved most of the bushland and 3/4 of the linkage area. In a reconsideration of the SPC's decision, made at Landcorp's request, we understand the WAPC overturned the SPC's decision and *approved* Landcorp's original subdivision plan for 2 large development lots in the linkage with clearing over half the bushland. No decision or reasons for the WAPC's decision were published. The public is not entitled to this information. The City of Nedlands advice and community and scientific advice has been consistently ignored over more than 4 years.

## Coastal reserve in Bush Forever 308 Trigg/Scarborough

A developer applied for a clearing permit in coastal dunes which are part of Bush Forever Area 308 (Trigg Bushland Reserve) for a 1160 sqm fire break/access between their property and the South Trigg Class A Reserve 46248. The City of Stirling supported this with 'conditions' while at the same time supporting the Department of Land's proposed amalgamation of the land which is currently a redundant road reserve into the adjacent Class A Reserve 46248.

*How can the City of Stirling simultaneously hold these contradictory positions?* Supporting protection of this public land for conservation and at the same time supporting a private developer's proposal to clear, level and fill it??

*Update March 2019: the developer has withdrawn their application for a Clearing Permit.*

## Melville Wave Park proposal in Bush Forever 331

The City of Melville approved the construction of a massive artificial wave park and retail complex on the Swan River foreshore in *Bush Forever Area 331*, immediately adjacent to the Swan Estuary Marine Park and Alfred Cove A-class Nature Reserve. To further facilitate this development, the City of Melville applied to the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage to purchase a significant portion of Crown Land Lot 9789 – a narrow buffer of land bordering the Swan Estuary Marine Park at Alfred Cove and clearly identified for conservation - to facilitate a commercial lease for wave park proponent, *Urbnsurf*.

*Update March 2019: The Minister for Lands has refused the purchase and loss from the Crown reserve.*

## Metronet proposals in Bush Forever sites and TECs

Metronet proposes new railway lines and extensions in parts of Bush Forever sites. The rail extension to Yanchep will facilitate linear urban sprawl and destroy TECs and parts of Bush Forever. Minister Saffioti is publicly promoting \$billions to be spent on Metronet in conflict with her role as Planning Minister with DPLH's responsibility as lead agency for Bush Forever implementation – with no progress.

## Industrial zoning around Brixton St Wetlands

Rezoning of the rural and semi-rural land surrounding this most flora species rich site in the Perth Metropolitan region to industrial and commercial use was a giant mistake. Inevitable changes to groundwater hydrology and runoff will irreversibly threaten this Groundwater Dependent Ecosystem. The EPA failed to formally assess and stop this environmentally unacceptable planning amendment.

## Failure to secure Anstey-Keane Damplands from rubbish dumping and hoon damage.

The WAPC has been stopped as a result of Treasury interference from securing the last 2 private blocks in this outstanding biodiverse Bush Forever Area 342 where precious tiny Honey Possums still reside. Off road rubbish dumping and hoon vandalism resulting in preventable degradation has not been stopped.



## Farrall Rd Bush Forever site 309 with critically endangered TEC sold to Peet & Co.

Lot 102 Farrall Road (including Bush Forever 309) was sold by the State Government to a private developer in 2014. On 2 July 2018 the Commonwealth Department of Environment decided that the proposed action to clear native vegetation at Lot 102 Farrall Road Stratton is a "Controlled Action" and needs a referral under the Environmental Protection Biodiversity Conservation Act. The botanical survey conducted by the proponent incorrectly concluded there were no Threatened Ecological Communities present (TEC). Members of the local community had to commission an independent survey demonstrating the presence of Floristic Community Type 20c, which is a *critically endangered* TEC. If the State system were working properly, it would not have been necessary for the local community to bear the cost of double checking the proponent's environmental report. The fate of this endangered bushland now depends on a decision from the Federal Minister. (Also see page 5)

## City of Wanneroo prescribed burns at Landsdale Reserve Bush Forever with TEC and more.

20 conservation sites were proposed to be burnt spring – early summer 2018 contrary to past practices. No consultation or consideration of impacts on the

*(Continued on page 4)*



City's responsibility for biodiversity conservation at Landsdale was considered. A firebreak one-third up was cleared through dividing the Landsdale Reserve, and this third of bushland was burnt November 2018 with more to come.

### Water Corp

Water Corp was not stopped from locating pipelines in highly sensitive locations in Bush Forever Sites in three separate cases where suitable alternatives are available. Firstly, a raw sewer through the Anstey-Keane Damplands; secondly a groundwater replenishment pipeline through multiple Bush Forever sites and Acid Sulfate Soils which risks acidifying Lake Joondalup; and thirdly a treated wastewater pipeline immediately adjacent and hydrologically upstream of the deep freshwater Lake Richmond with its critically endangered and *unique* thrombolites. The EPA failed to require alternatives that *avoid* these environmental risks and impacts in each of these three cases.

### Perth Airport clearing proposals in former Conservation Precincts

Air travellers were blocked from access to the Departure Terminal at Perth Airport by the rush and traffic jam of people going to Boxing Day 2018 sales at the Direct Factory Outlet. This highlights inappropriate commercial development and clearing in Bush Forever 386. In addition two unacceptable project proposals are for a new runway which will disturb Munday Swamp and bushland surrounds and their Aboriginal heritage values; and secondly for Perth Airport North commercial development in the former Conservation Precinct. The Commonwealth Government has failed to ensure protection of MNES, Conservation Precincts and to reject inappropriate *commercial* developments in the buffer zone of Airport facilities.

### Jandakot Airport Proposal to clear 65% of Banksia woodlands subject to *protection in perpetuity*.

Ten years ago Jandakot Airport Holdings Pty Ltd was given permission to clear large areas on the condition set by the Minister for Environment under the EPBC Act that the Conservation Precincts 1a, 1b and 2 were to be '*protected in perpetuity*'. This was defined as 97 years. Now the Airport leaseholder proposes to clear 65% of this conservation area for commercial purposes. The federal government is yet to make a decision on this.

### Tuart Woodlands of the Swan Coastal Plain TEC listing

Under the EPBC Act, the Minister for the Environment failed to make a decision in the 90 day period based on the advice of the Independent Scientific Committee to list the Tuart Woodlands as a Threatened Ecological Community.

*Update March 2019: The decision period under the EPBC Act has been extended to July 2019.*

***Before the State budget consideration by the State parliament, the UBC have written to the Environment Minister, Stephen Dawson, asking for an addition of \$5 million recurrent funding for DBCA to manage Bush Forever sites.***

## Wetland Buffer Policy Update

*By Phil Jennings*

For many years we have been urging the State Government to provide ecologically based guidelines for buffers to protect wetlands from urban development and industry. Some progress was made on this during the late nineties and a draft set of guidelines was produced for public comment in 2005. However, following the comment period nothing more was done to finalize or incorporate these guidelines into land use planning. Despite frequent reminders from the Wetlands Conservation Society and occasional assurances from Ministers this remains unfinished business.

Recently we have seen a glimmer of hope that this issue has not been forgotten. We believe that an interdepartmental working group has been set up to redraft the wetland buffer guidelines as part of a larger project to revise State Planning Policy 2.9 on water resources. These guidelines are urgently needed to prevent further encroachment on wetlands as urban infill and urban sprawl are continuing. Recent insensitive proposals for Carters Swamp, Tea Tree Close, Garvey Park, Brixton Street Wetlands (MKSEA), Bollard Bulrush Swamp and Cape Peron underline the need for these ecologically-based guidelines. It appears that these guidelines will sit under the updated State Planning Policy 2.9 on water resources that the WAPC is preparing. This could take several more years to complete.

The Wetlands Conservation Society believes that these guidelines should apply to all remaining wetlands and not just to conservation category wetlands as we have already lost over 80% of the original wetlands in the Metropolitan Area. Those that remain are vital for the protection of habitat and biodiversity.

In the meantime, we are still waiting on a decision from the State Government about the future of the Strategic Assessment of the Perth and Peel Regions that was meant to address the conservation needs of these regions for the next 30 years, including the buffer guidelines.

*Editor's note: See page 6 for examples of inadequate consideration of wetlands in land use planning.*



Photo by P Cloran

Farrall Road wetland in March 2019 (for more see page 6).

## BirdLife's 2019 Great Cocky Count reveal critical habitat

UWA Sports Park on Brockway Road and McGillivray Road in Shenton Park has an intriguing history. The whole area in the early 1920s was bushland with tall Tuart trees, but over two years the bushland was cleared to become the West Subiaco Aerodrome. The Tuart trees were removed by being blown up with gelignite.

The University of Western Australia acquired or was gifted the land sometime in the 1940s and in the 1960s the manager planted farm trees around the four sides of what became UWA Sports Park. Troughs and wells providing water for sheep are close by off McGillivray Road and on UWA's Lot 4 Underwood Avenue.

Ron Johnstone, Research Associate, WA Museum, has described how Forest Red-tailed Black Cockatoos started making their way out of the Jarrah forest and onto the Swan Coastal Plain fifteen years ago, advancing further with each season of berry-bearing Cape Lilacs and seed-bearing Marri trees.

The Red-tails were first discovered roosting in the western suburbs on 18 December 2011 in Marri trees between CSIRO and Bendat basketball facility – in Underwood Avenue. When all the Marri tree seeds had gone, the Red-tails moved to UWA Sports Park.

On several occasions over 600 Red-tails have been counted, flying in to roost at UWA Sports Park. When numbers are so large, there is an overflow into trees on UWA's Lot 4. Lot 4 has been partially cleared but half remains Banksia, Jarrah and Tuart bushland. At the 2019 Great Cocky Count, six people were allocated to the area to count because the Red-tails roost all around the sides of the Sports Park. The Great Cocky Count for Red-tails



Photo by M Owen



Photo by M Owen

for 2019 was an amazing 837. Have we failed these black cockatoos that they are in such numbers crowded into the Sports Park?

In the mornings many of the Red-tails fly about for an hour or two at the site before finally going forth. All they have to do is fly east across Brockway Road into Underwood Avenue Bushland to live life and to eat mainly Jarrah seeds. They have been observed mating on various occasions at the roost site and in the bushland.

At the Carnaby's counting corner, a few hundred metres north of the Red-tail roost, we counted 297 on the Great Cocky Count night, and at the other site in the western suburbs, based around Hollywood Hospital, 353 Carnaby's were counted, making a total of 649.

All these black cockatoos need food. The three roost sites – UWA Sports Park, Underwood Avenue and Hollywood Hospital have special characteristics: they have tall grouped trees, water and bushlands nearby. There is cockatoo fidelity to these sites.

It is therefore imperative that all corridors are protected between larger areas and that our remaining natural areas do not suffer from further loss and destruction.

The 2019 Great Cocky Count report will be available later this year. Previous reports can be found on BirdLife Australia website: <http://www.birdlife.org.au/projects/southwest-black-cockatoo-recovery/great-cocky-count-swbc>. If you missed the annual Cocky Count in April, you can still contribute to the research into WA's

Black cockatoos by participating in CockyWatch, a citizen science initiative. To find out more go to

<http://birdlife.org.au/projects/southwest-black-cockatoo-recovery/cockywatch>



## Yalgorup Lakes Threatened by Limestone and Sand Excavation

By Joan Payne

In 2010 the Environmental Protection Authority delivered strong, unequivocal Strategic Advice to the Western Australian Government with respect to the Dawesville to Binningup study area, which includes the ten wetlands of the Yalgorup lakes system and the Yalgorup National Park

The Strategic Advice in Report 1359 said the *'study area has natural values that are unique and significant at the global scale. The Ramsar listed Yalgorup lakes, migratory waterbirds, the Lake Clifton thrombolites and other geoheritage features are all internationally significant.'*

The EPA made a specific recommendation against development on the western side of the Yalgorup lakes system and the coast, as it was highly constrained due to the special environmental values present. As a consequence, referred proposals on the western side of Yalgorup Lakes were ruled by the EPA to be proposals unable to be made environmentally acceptable.

The State Government as part of the strategic planning proposal for Peel and in recognition of the highly significant values of the site as identified in Report 1359, purchased for conservation purposes, large parcels of private land being enclaves within the study area. These strategic acquisitions were applauded by the community. There was considerable optimism that the recommendations and intentions of the Strategic Advice would be met.

However in 2015 a proposal for excavation of limestone in an enclave surrounded by the National Park was lodged with the EPA. It was a relatively innocuous proposal, which if sited at an appropriate location with few environmental values, would not have even raised an eyebrow.

Unlike proposals in the study area that had been referred

in the past, and been rejected, due to the location and potential impacts on this sensitive environment, this proposal was given a *'Not Assessed'* which is the lowest level of assessment used for trivial proposals with little or no impact.

This inexplicable error put at serious risk the values of the Yalgorup Lakes Systems' complex hydrological functions as well as the values of the Yalgorup National Park which supports the largest consolidated Tuart Forest and Woodlands community in the world. The National Park also provides a haven for the Western Ringtail Possum, Phascogale and Carnaby's Black Cockatoo.

Clearly the EPA did not refer to its own Strategic Advice which recommended that the Yalgorup National Park should be extended and consolidated by incorporating private enclaves.

Fortunately there were appeals against this level of assessment by conservation organisations and individuals. The appeals were upheld by the previous Minister Albert Jacob, who referred the proposal back to the EPA for assessment saying there is *'sufficient uncertainty with respect to the environmental factors, hydrological processes and inland waters environmental quality.'*

Allowing development in enclaves within a highly sensitive environment and in close proximity to a National Park and internationally significant wetland system is far from good environmental practice.

An Environmental Scoping Document is being prepared. This will lead to a short four week Public Environmental Review which will be available for public comment. Anyone interested can subscribe to the EPA email notifications via 'Mailing List Signup' on <https://consultation.epa.wa.gov.au/> or contact Joan Payne via the UBC.

## Update on Lot 102 Farrall Road, Middle Swan (Bush Forever Site 309)

By Phil Cloran

This Lot contains Bush Forever Site 309 which is contiguous with a Threatened Ecological Community (Swan Coastal Plain Floristic Community Type 20c) which links up with the Talbot Road Bush Forever Site via the Blackadder Creek Reserve.

Lot 102 was sold by the State Government to a private residential developer in 2014. The wetland adjacent to Bush Forever 309 included a permanent spring, the source of a mapped tributary of Blackadder Creek, which was excavated with City of Swan approval (delegated authority, the Council didn't know about it) before the Structure Plan was approved by the WAPC. Apparently, the Department of Water was convinced by the proponent's environmental assessment that said the tributary no longer existed. We disputed this through every stage in the planning process, providing aerial photos.

Currently, after one of the driest summers in years, there is still standing water next to the housing development. Much of this water is in two constructed detention basins on the opposite side of the development to BF 309, rais-

ing a concern that drainage under the housing may be altering the groundwater system on which BF 309 relies. The proposal to clear the Threatened Ecological Community on Lot 102 was declared a "controlled action" by the Federal Department of Environment on 2 July 2018. To get to that stage the local community group had to commission an independent flora survey to challenge the incorrect findings of the proponent's flora survey.

On 12 October 2018 the WA EPA published a "Request for More Information" to the proponent. The letter said "The EPA will not proceed with its assessment of the proposal until you have provided the requested information, and it is considered to be adequate".

We haven't heard anything since then. The developer had hoped to use the sand dune containing the TEC to fill the hole they had excavated from the wetland as cheap fill. If the Federal Minister approves the destruction of the TEC then we think it will be the last nail in the coffin for the Bush Forever Site, which should never have been privatised.

# Group News Group News Group News

## Bungendore Park Environmental Group Inc

On Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> February the group hosted their bi-annual event 'Stars over Bungendore'. This event has been going now for over a decade and it is one of the ways we promote awareness and better understating of the natural environment. Also is one of the ways we promote our existence as an environmental group to the wider community.

Just over sixty people attended the evening which was held at the Southern Hills Christian College's gymnasium and oval, The College is located in Bedfordale next to Bungendore Park. Mr Richard Tonello from the Astronomy Education Services set his five telescopes up on the school oval.

While waiting for it to get dark Mr Tonello spoke to the guests and explained what they could expect to see through the various telescopes.

This year the telescopes were trained on:

The Great Orion Nebula - Orion

Eta Carinae Nebula - Carina

The Tarantula Nebula - Dorado/ Large Magellanic Cloud

47 Tucanae Globular Cluster - Tucana

The Wishing Well Cluster - Carina

Jewel Box Cluster - The Southern Cross

Our next Stars over Bungendore will be held in 2021.

*John Cartwright*



Photo by A Leach

'Stars Over Bungendore' event hosted by the Bungendore Park Environmental Group was attended by over 60 participants.

## WILDFLOWER SOCIETY OF WA-EASTERN HILLS BRANCH

Our branch participated in the recent Blue Sky Festival at Mundaring. The event focusses on sustainability and our theme for this year was "Food for Cockatoos". We teamed up with Kaarakin, the Cockatoo Rehabilitation Centre and the live cockatoos were a great drawcard. We gave away a lot of hakea, marri and banksia seed to encourage locals to grow plants suitable for cockatoos. The Wildflower Society Education Subcommittee was also there running some popular children's activities. The "i-Scope" is always a hit and some children enjoyed making native insect hotels.

After our long Christmas break we have resumed our monthly speakers with talks on mistletoes, puffballs and native bees. Coming up in May we have orchids and June the Fortescue Wetlands. We meet on the fourth Friday of the month at Octagonal Hall in Glen Forrest.

AUTUMN 2019



Photo by P Riordan

Eastern Hills Branch of the Wildflower Society of WA and Kaarakin rehabilitation and rescue centre joined efforts in promoting the role of local native plants to protecting the threatened Black cockatoos at the 'Blue Sky Festival' in Mundaring.



Photo by P Riordan

On May 1<sup>st</sup> we held a short workshop on growing native plants and on May 11<sup>th</sup> we have our **annual plant sale**. Whether you are a keen gardener looking for an unusual plant or you are just wondering about establishing a native garden, this is a great opportunity to buy your plants. This sale offers hundreds of local plants grown by local enthusiasts who will be on hand to offer lots of advice. There are plants suited to a range of soil types. All plants are subject to rigid quality control, so they have well developed roots and will thrive in your garden.

The plants are grouped in sizes, from ground covers, small, medium and large shrubs, to climbers and trees. Ranging from \$2.50 to \$6 (plus GST) they are a very economical way to start or develop your native garden. May is the perfect time to plant; they will be established by the time summer hits.

In addition to plants there will be seeds and books for sale. and you can enjoy a morning tea on the verandah, Octagonal Hall, 52 McGlew Rd Glen Forrest. The sale runs from 9am to 2pm but it is recommended to arrive early. For more details:

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

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/easternhillswildflowersoc/>  
email [eastern.hills.branch@wildflowersocietywa.org.au](mailto:eastern.hills.branch@wildflowersocietywa.org.au)

*Pam Riordan*



## OUR RIVER NEEDS MOORE FRIENDS



Photo courtesy of Friends of Moore River

### WHERE

Moore River Estuary (picture above) lies less than 100kms north of Perth city and 12kms up the coast from the northern boundary of metropolitan Perth at Two Rocks. It is part of the rural Shire of Gingin.

Moore River is nearly 200kms long and passes through 8 rural shires. It meets the sea at Guilderton. This small town, of 170 residents (many retirees) and 450 houses, is mainly a holiday destination for both country and city folk. It is a beautiful location, very much still in it's natural state.

The land between the city limit and the estuary is in nature and conservation parks, with some forestry and 2,099ha adjoining the southern shores of the estuary are owned by the Plunkett family.

### WHAT

This is the area of dispute with locals since 1994 when the Shire of Gingin granted Plunkett's Moore River Company (MRC) an 'urban zoning' over their land. Since then there have been many battles with ups and downs, as described on our website at <https://guildertonwa.com.au/>.

In summary, MRC's Outline Development Plan (ODP), covering over 457ha of their 2,099ha property, designed to provide for 5,000 people in 2,000 dwellings, was approved in 2013. A Foreshore Management Plan and the subdivision plan were approved in 2014, subject to several conditions being met. MRC put the whole property up for sale in August 2015 and all went quiet until earlier this year when MRC applied for an extension of their 2014 subdivision approval. The extension was granted for another 4 years, subject to 44 conditions, many as a result of concerns by other State departments with the development plan.

### WHY

Friends of Moore River Estuary have always understood that this small and unique estuary will not stand the presence of a suburb so close to it's southern bank. We think that the whole parcel of land between the city and estuary, ocean and Indian Ocean Drive, should be a Regional Park for the recreational use of everyone. We think it invaluable to maintain a wildlife corridor with Yanchep

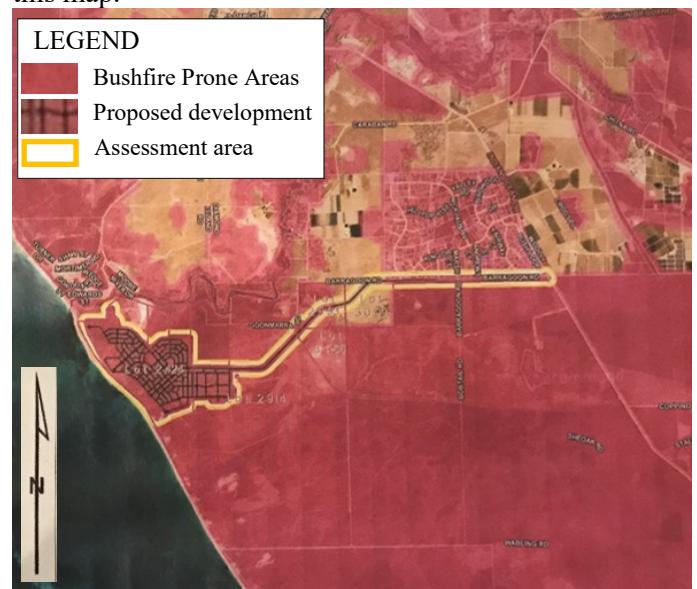
National Park, home to the largest flocks remaining of Carnaby's cockatoos, and important flora and fauna of the Swan Coastal Plain.

### WHEN - NOW

Several things have changed since 2014, which make any development here a very obvious mistake. Updates to Planning Policies mean that the very idea of a suburb in this location goes against SPP 3 – Urban Growth and Settlements. The requirements of SPP 2.6, Coastal Planning don't help them and now SPP 3.7, Planning in Bushfire Prone areas should be the last straw!

Why would anyone create a suburb in such a fireprone place as this cul-de-sac between river mouth and ocean, surrounded by bush, with prevailing south westerly winds?

With only one effective exit for residents, surely this goes against all current planning policies as you can see on this map.



Adapted from the Shire of Gingin Council Meeting Minutes, 21/08/2018; courtesy of Friends of Moore River.

The other 'new' problems for MRC are the listing of the Banksia Woodlands and the Tuart Woodlands as well as the increasing importance of foraging and roosting habitat for the Carnaby's.

In order to meet requirements for bushfire planning they will have to clear the site, a clear disaster for the wildlife and in contravention of promises made in their ODP. Their site would have to look something like this metropolitan site.



Image courtesy of Friends of Moore River



# Group News Group News Group News

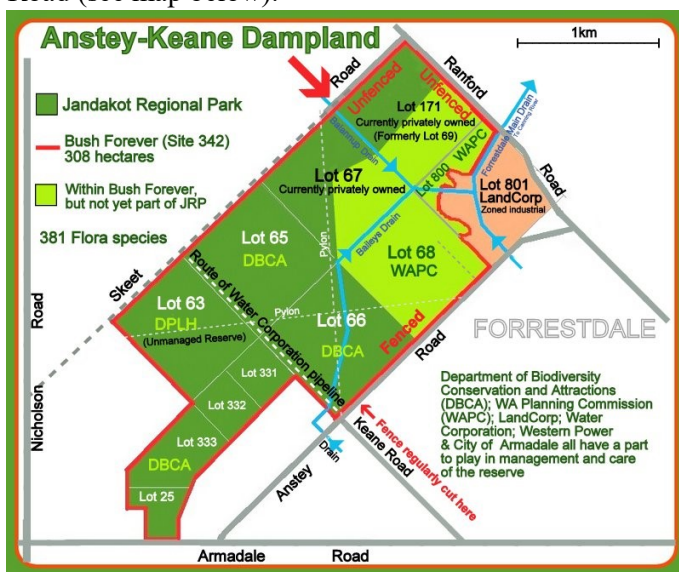
So do we want a suburb sprawling outside Perth, with all these problems and no benefit to anyone but the developer? No, we don't. Creating a Regional Park is the best answer to land use here!

We welcome all like minded people to join us in opposing this development and supporting us in our hopes for a Regional Park over the wider landscape of this slice of WA.

*Linda Johnson*

## Friends of Forrestdale

In January 2019, the Friends of Forrestdale wrote to the local Member of Parliament, Mr Yaz Mubarakai MLA, seeking his support for resolving the problems with ongoing vandalism within parts of Bush Forever Area 342 and for government acquisition of Lots 67 and 69 Skeet Road (see map below).



The letter summarised the key issues as follows:

*"Abuse of nature reserves by joyriders and rubbish dumpers has been a problem for years and, regrettably, the situation is getting worse.*

*During a walk in the reserve last week Friends of Forrestdale members saw evidence of extensive joyriding activity. In addition, trailer loads of rubbish are being dumped in the reserve, often on top of native vegetation, which consequently gets smothered and dies. Rubbish dumped in nature reserves also creates serious pollution issues.*

*Offenders are entering the reserve from several points. Chiefly through the unfenced and privately owned blocks, Lots 67 and 69 Skeet Road, which still await government acquisition. The purchase of these two blocks should be a matter of high priority so that the reserve as a whole can be fenced and properly managed.*

*Landcorp land on Anstey Road is another regular entry point into the reserve where the gate and fence have been breached with seemingly no attempt by Landcorp to fix them. (These main points of entry into the reserve are indicated with red arrows on the attached map.)*

*The unfortunate situation is that offenders are operating almost entirely unchallenged. This puts the conservation*

*values of the reserve at significant risk. When unlawful activities such as this are tolerated or ignored, it serves only to embolden the perpetrators, allowing a toxic culture to fester.*

*As a Swan Coastal Plain conservation reserve, Anstey-Keane is irreplaceable. It is richly biodiverse and filled with natural interest and wonder. If cared for properly it can bring immeasurable benefits not only in relation to conservation and the protection of native species, but also to the community as a whole where people can engage in a positive way with nature.*

*It can also be a valued source of study and learning for students in the district's many schools.*

*Witnessing the continuous abuse and neglect of this precious reserve is extremely distressing and we seek your support and advice on how to resolve the situation and suggest ways to expedite government acquisition of Lots 67 and 69 Skeet Road."*

In March, Mr Mubarakai met with Friends of Forestdale and UBC representatives at Skeet Road and at the Forrestdale Lake reserve, where among other things a prospect of an environmental education centre on the land owned by the WA Planning Commission was raised.

To get the project rolling, the Friends received an offer from an architectural draftsman to do concept drawings, as a volunteer.

In light of the rapidly expanding populations of surrounding suburbs, the Friends believe this proposal is of key importance, especially with its recreation and education component. Therefore they requested a second meeting to discuss the potential environmental education centre in more detail with all relevant stakeholders.

*Bryony Fremlin*

## Friends of Trigg Bushland

In March, the Friends welcomed a letter from DWER advising that the developers Norup+Wilson have withdrawn their application to clear 1,160sqm of sand dunes between their land and the dual path at North Scarborough/South Trigg Beach, within Bush Forever Area 308. The Friends strongly opposed the proposal to clear vegetation within the dunes, questioning the validity of the listed reason for clearing; fire hazard reduction. However, the application should never have been made and it is disappointing the City of Stirling supported it without any consultation with surrounding residents or local conservation groups.

We now look forward to the City of Stirling carrying out its responsibility as land manager of this Bush Forever Area and to provide it with the protection it deserves as an important part of the coastal dune system soon to be amalgamated with the South Trigg Beach Class A Reserve.

In 2018 the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage acquired the block of land at 2 Trigg Place. The land was cleared and remained vacant. After an enquiry by our group a meeting was arranged with Friends of Trigg Beach, Friends of Trigg Bushland and Stirling Natural



# Group News Group News Group News

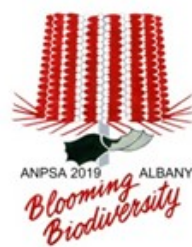
Environment Coastcare to discuss its future. We were assured by the Department that the land would be revegetated with local species to return it to as close as possible to its original condition.

A species list was compiled and sent to us for approval before planting commenced in winter last year. A recent inspection of the site revealed that despite a long, dry summer, most of the new plants had survived and were doing well. See photos below and also on our Facebook page here <https://www.facebook.com/SaveTriggBeach/>

This is an example of a successful collaboration between the community and the State Government to recreate a habitat and dune vegetation on a small area at Trigg Beach. Our aims and objectives are to keep Trigg Beach's natural environment as intact as possible and to protect the area from inappropriate development.



Progress of vegetation restoration at 2 Trigg Place, Scarborough.  
Photos courtesy of Friends of Trigg Bushland.



## BLOOMING BIODIVERSITY National Wildflower Conference in Albany, Western Australia 29<sup>th</sup> September - 4<sup>th</sup> October 2019

Western Australia is famous for its wildflowers. Gardeners in Australia and many overseas strive to grow the beautiful kangaroo paws, boronias, hakeas and banksias endemic to Western Australia, especially to the South West of the State.

The South West boasts incredibly rich and diverse flora, most of which are found nowhere else on Earth. The region is home to more than 5,000 plant species and is an internationally recognised 'biodiversity hotspot'. It is home to some of the rarest orchids & carnivorous plants, trees & mountain bells.

The South West has a 'Mediterranean' climate, with cool, wet winters and warm to hot and dry summers, and its flora has adapted to both drought and fire. Species endemic to the region include the ancient Kingia (*Kingia australis*) and the glorious Royal Hakea (*Hakea victoria*). Huge Karri trees (*Eucalyptus diversicolor*) grow up 90 metres in the wettest areas, and the Albany Pitcher Plant (*Cephalotus follicularis*) hides away in dense vegetation on the banks of streams and swamps.

In 2019 the Australian Native Plants Society (Australia) will hold its national conference in Albany, on the south west coast of Western Australia. Albany is arguably one of the world's most beautiful and diverse locations, renowned for its pristine coastline, myriad beaches and national parks, as well as its rich history.

Albany is the traditional home of the Minang Noongar people. It is located 420 kilometres south east of Perth and has a population of around 38,000 people.

The Conference will be hosted by the Wildflower Society of Western Australia. Spring is the main flowering period for our wildflowers, and the Conference will make the most of the peak flowering time.

The Albany Wildflower Show, with over 500 wildflower specimens on display, will be held in the week leading



Photo courtesy Wildflower Society WA

The tour one site to be visited during the National Wildflower Conference tours.





Photo courtesy Wildflower Society WA

The tour four site to be visited during the National Wildflower Conference tours.

up to the Conference so that delegates can visit on the Friday or Saturday before the Conference begins.

In addition to an exciting program of speakers the Conference includes half day tours around Albany on Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> followed by a Welcome Cocktail Party. The first full day of the conference is a choice of three full day excursions to enjoy the beautiful mountains or coast around Albany. There is an opportunity to take another of these options on day 3 of the conference.

There are also pre and post conference tours to explore Western Australia's wildflower regions:

- Kwongan and Woodland Tour - Wildflowers of northern heaths and inland woodlands
- Granites and Lowlands Tour - Forests of the Darling Scarp and central Wheatbelt woodlands
- Heathlands and Barrens Tour - Hidden gems between Fitzgerald and Cape LeGrand National Park
- Coasts and Forests Tour - South West coastal forests and views

This is a great opportunity to learn more about Western Australia's wildflowers. Find out more at [www.bloomingbiodiversity.com.au](http://www.bloomingbiodiversity.com.au)

*Margaret Matthews*

## Baigup Wetland Interest Group

Baigup Wetland Interest Group started the year in February with a highly successful *Baigup Wetlands Get Together* to discuss the way forward. Forty-five local residents attended to hear City of Bayswater Mayor, Dan Bull, speak on the challenges facing us. After a quick summary from Penny Lee of our achievements since the group commenced in late 2012, Dan emphasised the significance of the Baigup Wetlands as a important link in the wildlife corridor provided by the Swan River. He raised the question of a regional approach to managing riverside natural areas and expressed the personal hope that useful strategies to this end would emerge in coming years. Two Bassendean residents at the meeting expressed support for this idea and offered to help if something can be set up.

Dan also acknowledged the importance of a smooth transition of management of the Western Australian Planning Commission (WAPC) owned 11.2 ha to the City once

legacy issues have been dealt with by the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage (DPLH) in line with their undertaking to complete an extensive weed control program and other works. When these are completed the WAPC land at the Bayswater end of Baigup will be incorporated into the existing 5.2 ha Crown Reserve at the Maylands end. DPLH works since late 2016 have included a fire access track, elimination of massive stands of Pampas Grass, the removal of a significant number of exotic trees, and ongoing management of other perennial and annual weeds. Revegetation started in collaboration with our group is coming on nicely in this section. Weed control and revegetation in the Crown Reserve by our group and the City has also made an impressive difference, with young trees and shrubs growing rapidly in some areas previously covered in weeds.

Our group has clearly entered a transition stage and it was very gratifying to see new volunteers putting their hands up for roles at committee level. I have stepped down from the coordinator role and the remaining core team is currently developing new processes for the next stage in the management of the reserve. This includes a meeting planned with the City's Natural Area Management Officer to discuss progress in relation to the 10 year Management Plan for Baigup Wetlands and to re-set, taking into account what has been achieved to date and what is still to be done.

*Penny Lee*

The **Friends of Lake Gwelup** meet monthly to perform bushcare tasks around the lake reserve. This mostly involves weeding, but we do episodic planting of seedlings raised from local plants by the team at the City of Stirling. There have been some areas of renovation and rejuvenation, especially on the north side of the lake. Planting into mulched areas as soon as practicable after the hardscaping has been done has prevented the establishment of weeds. It is pleasing to note the good survival rates of our most recent plantings.

In collaboration with the Perth NRM and the Swan Estuary Reserves Action Group we hosted one of the Noon-gar Six Season Walks in March. There was a lot of interest from members of the wider community as well as our group, which was good to see.

*Robyn Junckerstorff*

## Biodiversity and Human Health

Dr George Crisp presented the stimulating 2019 Serenity Memorial Lecture held by the WA Naturalists' Club on 26<sup>th</sup> March. He spoke of the relevance of ecosystems for human health and the need for better governance. Just some of the interesting points made are summarised here.

On our planet, 83% of habitable lands are dominated by humans. The Lancet 10 years ago expressed that 'climate change is the biggest global health threat of the 21<sup>st</sup> century.' Increasing temperatures, increasing variability, and changes in extremes are predicted.

Women are more vulnerable than men to extreme temperatures. There is a big increase in mortality when night time temperatures do not drop below 24 degrees. In heatwaves, deaths increase. For example in the 2009 heatwave in Victoria, there were 374 excess deaths (above seasonal average). As a result of the Victorian 2009 bushfires, there were 173 deaths, 414 public emergency doctor presentations, and ongoing mental health impacts, with PTSD 4 years after the event.

In nature, in one case, one third of bats died in Cairns when the temperature exceeded 42 degrees. Even small changes in average temperatures can have a significant effect on ecosystems.

Biodiversity across the globe is essential for food supplies and agriculture, for productivity, nutritional

diversity and resilience, but it is declining. For example the number of species of insects is in decline. With a decrease in diversity of species in ecosystems, disease pathways increase and the problem of zoonoses (diseases transmitted from animals to humans) increases. Examples are SARS, Ebola virus, West Nile virus, Lyme disease, avian flu. The worst vector is the mosquito.

Ecosystems are relevant and indeed essential for human health. Exposure to green space as a child is important. Adults need nature too. Research shows an increase of 55% in mental health issues if there is no exposure to nature and green space.

Temperature impacts of climate change are magnified in cities with increased temperatures of up to 10 degrees at night. Cities are now more unhealthy because of the increase in hard space, the loss of trees and canopy cover, and loss of native vegetation. Biodiversity loss and climate change are *both* important. **Both need to be addressed for human health.** They are *health co-benefits*.

Better governance is needed. Currently little interdisciplinary work is being done to address these matters. We need to end deforestation, control air pollution, and end clearing right here in the Perth region and the south west.

Dr Crisp said it is time for a new inter-related discipline of 'Planetary Health'. What is good for the world will be good for us. Learn what is good for the world.

## University Students Volunteer with Bushcare Groups

Need an extra pair of hands in the bushland? Cathie O'Neill and Sue Conlan, representing the UBC, had a booth at the UWA Volunteering and Community Impact Fair to endear environmental conservation volunteering to new students. If your group is chosen it could mean 3-4 years of regular help in your bushland patch. The many benefits to students include:

- Working outdoors
- Discovering beautiful places in Perth
- Learning how our bushland needs help
- Learning new skills
- Learning about our native plants and animals.
- Belonging to a community as many are a long way from their families
- Opportunities to secure references for job applications
- Environmental conservation volunteering is well regarded when they apply for jobs.

Students help when they are available and can make a big difference. Endearing the bushland to young people is just as important as weeding it. It is a brave step for young students to follow your directions to get to their first busy bee. Since Bushcare groups are very friendly, helpful and inclusive any student apprehension soon falls away.

We took down many names who I have found or suggested groups close to where they live. If your group would like some student volunteers, it is not too late. You can send Ayesha Fredericksen, the UWA student guild volunteer co-ordinator, details of your busy bees by emailing [volunteering@guild.uwa.edu.au](mailto:volunteering@guild.uwa.edu.au). Perhaps you have a big project of planting or weeding where UWA student Guild can organise 10-15 students.

Curtin University can also arrange a small group of students to your project. Contact Curtin University student volunteering co-ordinator Krishan Shah [krishan.shah@curtin.edu.au](mailto:krishan.shah@curtin.edu.au).



UWA student Yilu signing up to help Friends of Mosman Park Bushland at the UWA Volunteering and Community Impact Fair.





S.H.A.R.E. in the Shed  
**BANKSIA WOODLANDS**

Managing beautiful, threatened ecosystems in a changing landscape

**Thursday, 16 May 4.00pm- 6.20pm**  
**The PHCC Shed @ 58 Sutton St Mandurah**

At this Peel Harvey Catchment Council (PHCC) event, experts, including Greg Keighery (Botanist), Dr Mike Bamford (Consulting Ecologist), Dr Joe Fontaine (Murdoch University), Linda Metz (City of Cockburn) and Andrew Del Marco (PHCC), will outline the varied aspects of Banksia woodland management.

Full program and further details available at [https://peel-harvey.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/Program\\_SHARE-Banksia.pdf](https://peel-harvey.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/Program_SHARE-Banksia.pdf)

RSVP essential by 13th May. To register call 6369 8800 or email [events@peel-harvey.org.au](mailto:events@peel-harvey.org.au)

**NATURE CITY SEMINAR**  
**26-28 June 2019**  
**South Perth Community Hall**

'Nature City Seminar will showcase the latest research and best practice case studies from across WA's urban areas. The key themes are conservation management, restoration & enhancement of urban nature, and connecting people with nature. The call for abstracts will open shortly. Register your interest with Lucy Commander, Chair of the Steering Committee ([dlucycommander@gmail.com](mailto:dlucycommander@gmail.com))'

**SAVE A DATE**



**NatureLink Perth**  
**Symposium**  
**Thursday 4 July**

More information on <http://www.naturelinkperth.org/>

**Call for papers:**  
**UWA Prescribed Burning Conference 2019**  
**Evidence and Policy**  
**31 July-1 August 2019**

The Committee are keen to receive papers or case studies that address the following or closely related issues. The four main strands of discussion over a two-day conference are:

- Indigenous fire management - history and current practice;
- The health effects of prescribed burns and wildfires;
- The impact of prescribed burns and wildfires on biodiversity;
- The effectiveness of prescribed burns in preventing wildfires and reducing human and property impacts.

Paper proposals which would fit within any of the four themes in the form of an abstract of no more than 2000 characters (including spaces) and a biographical note of 500 characters (including spaces) need to be submitted before the closing date of Friday 21<sup>st</sup> June. For more information go to <http://pbc2019.com.au/>

***Threat abatement plan for disease in natural ecosystems caused by***  
***Phytophthora cinnamomi***

The Minister for the Environment, the Hon Melissa Price MP, has released the new *Threat abatement plan for disease in natural ecosystems caused by Phytophthora cinnamomi* under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*. The new plan addresses the key threatening process Dieback caused by the root-rot fungus *Phytophthora cinnamomi*. It identifies actions to ensure the long-term survival of native species and ecological communities affected by *Phytophthora* dieback and guides investment and effort by government, researchers, land managers and other stakeholders. The plan focuses on the need for further research on the pathogen and its management options; prioritisation of assets in need of protection; and community engagement to prevent spread of the disease.

The Australian Government is required to implement the plan to the extent to which it applies in areas under its control and responsibility. In other affected areas, the successful implementation of the plan is reliant on the support and cooperation of all affected jurisdictions and the Australian community.

The new plan and its background document are available on the Department of the Environment and Energy website at: [www.environment.gov.au/biodiversity/threatened/publications/threat-abatement-plan-disease-natural-ecosystems-caused-phytophthora-cinnamomi-2018](http://www.environment.gov.au/biodiversity/threatened/publications/threat-abatement-plan-disease-natural-ecosystems-caused-phytophthora-cinnamomi-2018)

**Kaarakin**  
**TOUR DAYS**  
322 Mills Road East, Martin W.A.

**SATURDAY 11th.**  
**& SUNDAY 12th.**  
**MAY 2019**

- Join us in a guided tour of our Grounds, approximately 1 hour in duration,
- Get up close to friendly black cockatoos in the interactive aviary.
- Meet our resident Emus, Kangaroos & Dingoes.
- Learn about our rehabilitation work.
- Visit the dingo enclosures and also meet with our Alpines Amy and Alex

**Sausage Sizzle**  
**Coffee - Tea - Soft Drinks**  
**Homemade Cakes**  
**Available for Purchase**  
**(Vegan and Gluten Free Options)**

**KAARAKIN MERCHANDISE ON SALE!**  
**BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL**  
[www.blackcockatoorecovery.com/tourdays](http://www.blackcockatoorecovery.com/tourdays)

For further information contact [tour@kaarakin.com](mailto:tour@kaarakin.com) or **0421 280 376**

**Admission Costs**

**\$8 Children** (5-15yrs) **\$15 Adults** **\$45 Families** (2 adults + 3 Children)



Photo by M Owen

### Black-cockatoos and Banksias

As part of the National Trust's *Australian Heritage Festival*, through this event the Urban Bushland Council will be emphasizing the need to conserve our precious natural heritage.

Date: **Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> May 2019**

Time: 9.00am registrations, **9.30am start 11.30am finish**

Venue: **Ecology Centre, Bold Park**, 165 Perry Lakes Drive, City Beach

Cost: \$10 Adults; \$5 children

The event will commence with presentations from **William Fowler (Murdoch University)** and **Dr Christine Groom (UWA)** on current research into these bushland jewels – sharing information on their nature and interdependence, the fragility of their numbers and extent, and community efforts to conserve them into the future.

Guided by the **Friends of Bold Park** we will then take a walk through Bold Park - one of the largest remaining bushland remnants in the urban area of the Swan Coastal Plain - to explore the importance of this world-class urban wilderness to black-cockatoos and banksias.

**As places are limited**, please **register** through the Events Page on our website: <http://www.bushlandperth.org.au>  
Please wear clothes appropriate for weather conditions and walking – and remember no dogs are allowed.



Photo 1

Photos courtesy Dr T Houston

### Native Bees and our Bushland

At the UBC General Meeting our guest speaker will be **Dr Terry Houston from WA Museum**.

Date: **Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> May 2019**

Time: Light refreshments at 6.00pm for **6.30pm start**

Venue: **City West Lotteries House**, 2 Delhi Street, West Perth

Cost: \$5 children donation at door for door-prize draw

Inhabiting the Perth Region is a substantial native bee fauna – around 80 species – which is highly dependent on the native flora. New bee species have been coming to light year after year and many await naming and description. The natural history of relatively few bee species has been studied in any detail, but some fascinating behaviours are found among those that have. An example is the 'megamouth bee' (Photo 1) that was discovered in Forrestdale several years ago.

One specimen of a species already presumed to be extinct, Douglas's Broad-headed Bee *Hesperocolletes douglasi* (Photo 2), was collected in Banksia woodland on Perth's northern outskirts in 2015 by Juliana Pille Arnold, a PhD student at the University of WA and recently made headlines in the local news. This rediscovery and other finds of special interest will be detailed in this presentation to illustrate some of the joys and frustrations of trying to document the biology of native bees.



Photo 2



## 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"

The annual membership fees include an electronic copy of the *Urban Bush Telegraph* (currently published quarterly). Printed copies can be ordered at a cost of \$15.00 per annum for four editions.

Join or renew on-line (<https://www.bushlandperth.org.au/membership/>) or send your name, address and cheque 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 6008

Postal address: PO Box 326 West Perth WA 6872

Ph 9420 7207 E-mail: [ubc@bushlandperth.org.au](mailto:ubc@bushlandperth.org.au)



Urban Bushland Council WA Inc



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

#### NEWSLETTER ITEMS

Compiled by: Renata Zelinova  
PLEASE SEND CONTRIBUTIONS TO:

[ubc@bushlandperth.org.au](mailto:ubc@bushlandperth.org.au)

**Copy deadline - 15 July 2019**

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