

## The proposed Yule Brook Regional Park

By Hans Lambers



Photo by A Rossen

*Spring in Alison Baird Reserve, Kenwick - the reserve is part of the Greater Brixton Street wetlands and the proposed Yule Brook Regional Park.*

Native vegetation clearing in the Greater Perth is beginning to exceed the critical threshold beyond which ecological functions begin to dramatically decline, and the level of clearing on the eastern Swan Coastal Plain is such that all remaining native vegetation should be classed as endangered or critically endangered. Protecting and enhancing the connectivity of high quality vegetation as part of ecological corridors is one of the most effective measures that remain available to mitigate this dire situation. That is why we need the Yule Brook Regional Park.

The Yule Brook Regional Park will restore and enhance ecological connectivity between Lesmurdie Falls National Park and other large conservation reserves of the Darling Range, and the Canning River. Our plan affirms the long-standing interest of the local community in a Foothills Regional Park and is consistent with the indicative structure plan for industrial development.

Our proposed Yule Brook Regional Park integrates all high conservation value areas in the Greater Brixton Street Wetlands and the Yule Brook area and links this to the Canning River Regional Park; two other Bush Forever Areas; two large recreation reserves; a number of small C Class Reserves; and the Lesmurdie Falls National Park.

The Yule Brook Regional Park would protect the rich and rare flora of the Greater Brixton Street Wetlands, which comprise the greatest biodiversity of the entire Swan Coastal Plain containing



Photo by A Rossen

*Hans Lambers, Emeritus Professor, University of Western Australia and Patron of the Kwongan Foundation, explains the unique features of rare flora at Alison Baird Flora Reserve to a guided walk participants.*

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# Editorial

## A Message for the Government

As the State Election approaches, it is timely to look back at the last 4 years and assess what the Government has achieved and where it has failed to meet our expectations.

The McGowan Government came to power in March 2017 after more than 8 years of Coalition Government led by Colin Barnett. That Government had a poor environmental record and the Roe 8 issue played a major role in its defeat. The McGowan Government has certainly performed much better on the environment than the Coalition did. It got off to a good start by stopping the Roe 8 project and funding the rehabilitation of the Beeliar Wetlands. It has also converted a large part of the Beeliar Regional Park to Class A reserve status. Amongst its other achievements is the expansion of the national park system, the partial ban on fracking, and the introduction of the container deposit scheme. All of these initiatives were welcomed by the conservation movement.

However, there have also been some disappointments and shortcomings too. These include the abandonment of the strategic review process for the Perth and Peel regions, the ongoing urban sprawl and the urban infill program, both of which are destroying biodiversity and removing wildlife habitat. There have been very few gains for wetlands and urban bushland conservation over the past 4 years. Bush Forever is still stalled and regional park management is seriously underfunded. WA is still the only state in Australia that does not carry out regular state of the environment reporting. The Biodiversity Audit 2 was abandoned and consequently the public and decision-makers have a lack of up-to-date information about how threatened flora, fauna and ecosystems are faring in the face of climate change.

The recent State Budget contained very few environmental initiatives. Understandably the emphasis was on budget repair, jobs, infrastructure and law and order. However, the Government needs to recognise that a healthy society needs to be based on a healthy environment. Not enough is being done to conserve our precious biodiversity and ecosystems and to repair the damage done by previous policies. Our UBC proposal for a Science and Conservation Jobs Stimulus has been ignored. Sadly, we have already lost biodiversity and productive farmland to salinity, caused by over clearing. Dieback is ravaging our forests due to poor hygiene and climate change is impacting heavily on the forests, wetlands and the coast. All of these examples of environmental neglect cause expensive economic and public health problems. Despite the clear evidence, the Government seems to be more interested in addressing the symptoms of environmental neglect while ignoring the causes.

Looking ahead, we expect the State Government to give a much higher priority to conservation and environmental protection, if it is re-elected in March 2021. It needs to begin by restoring the capacity of DWER and DBCA to carry out their statutory roles in environmental management. They are chronically understaffed and unable to do the conservation work that the community expects of them. There is also an urgent need to expand the Regional Park system and to implement Bush Forever before urban development overwhelms the remaining fragments of our natural heritage. Proposals for the Yule Brook, Peel, Gnamptara and Lower Serpentine Regional Parks need to be implemented urgently before the opportunity is lost. The wetland buffer guidelines and the updated wetlands conservation policy need to be finalised and implemented to ensure that development does not overwhelm this internationally significant biodiversity hotspot.

The McGowan Government has performed well on economic and health issues. We are hoping that it will now direct some of its attention to addressing urgent environmental issues in WA.

### **KEEP WA MYRTLE RUST FREE - Early detection is key to preventing the spread of myrtle rust should it arrive to WA.**

The State government is calling on wildflower and bushland enthusiasts to keep an eye out for myrtle rust while exploring bushland areas.

Myrtle rust (*Austropuccinia psidii*) is a highly invasive fungal disease of Myrtaceae plants like eucalypts, bottle-brushes, paperbarks and peppermint trees. It has been found in all Australian states except Western Australia and South Australia. To find out what are the signs of myrtle rust infections visit [mypestguide.agric.wa.gov.au](http://mypestguide.agric.wa.gov.au) where observation can be reported.

Myrtle rust spores spread mostly via wind but they can spread via infected plant material, contaminated equipment like bikes, camping gear, vehicles or clothes.

When entering bushland areas, arrive clean and leave clean:

- Ensure items are free of mud, soil and organic matter before entering and exiting bushland
- Use wash-down and boot cleaning stations if available
- Wash and disinfect all items on return home
- Always stay on roads and trails.

## WHAT WE CAN ALL DO to help save our local biodiversity

For at least 40 years eminent scientists have been warning that rising CO2 levels in the atmosphere will result in dangerous global warming. Ian Bayly's article "*40 Years of Climate Warnings Ignored by Australian Politicians*" was published online on 16/08/2020 in John Menadue's Public Policy Journal, *Pearls and Irritation's*. Ian is happy for it to be shared far and wide. So here is the link:- <https://johnmenadue.com/40-years-of-climate-warnings-ignored-by-australian-politicians/>

The Climate Crisis and the Extinction Crisis are now well recognised. Here in WA as elsewhere, to urgently reduce our Greenhouse gas emissions (CO2, CH4) means shifting to 100% renewable energy, reduced fire, no new fossil fuel production and use, reduced organic waste to landfill, shifting to electric vehicles, and on the other side of the equation: *increasing* carbon sequestration.

This means that in WA we need to shift to a net increase in vegetation cover.

Step one to save our biodiversity is that we need to **retain all the remaining native vegetation**, protect it and restore it. Stop clearing it! This is especially the case here in our South West biodiversity hotspot which is for conservation priority because it is under threat. Wildlife and its habitat need to be protected if we want to have a healthy planet.

Step two is that we need to **restore** our remaining bushland and wetland patches. Indeed this is what friends groups are doing in bushcare along with the respective conservation land managers. Conservation management by land managers needs to be greatly improved. Find out what is holding them back.

Step three is **restoring and increasing ecological linkages** between bushland patches by planting with local native species. Each of us householders can help by providing some new wildlife habitat in our front gardens, back gardens, verges and/or balconies. In the Perth region, if thousands of us each remove a small patch of hard cover such as concrete or brick paving, and plant a local tree suited to the landform and soil type, we can significantly increase wildlife habitat and food as well as increasing the urban tree canopy. This also helps urban cooling.

Planting local native species attracts lots of small birds, reptiles, invertebrates and insect pollinators which are a pleasure to watch and enjoy. This benefits our human health as well as wildlife health. Planting food trees such as *Banksia menziesii*, *B. attenuata*, *B. prionotes*, Marri, Tuart, and the shrubby *Hakea orthorrhyncha* for our iconic but endangered Carnaby's Cockatoos is a great pleasure.

### Actions

- Remove a patch of hard surface and plant a local native tree
- Plant local native plants in your gardens, street verges and on your balconies.
- Call on government to install underground power in our streets so that native trees can be grown to form a shady canopy and sequester lots of carbon dioxide and invite native birds, reptiles, insects and invertebrates.
- Take your families – especially young kids - for a guided walk in local bushland, show them the lovely wildflowers and wildlife habitat. Keep to the paths! Visit another bushland site that they have not visited. Check out UBC website, your local council e-news and local newspapers for walks near you.
- Invite neighbours to a guided walk with you to nearby bushland. It is amazing how many people have never visited and enjoyed their local nature.
- After these visits, encourage your relatives and neighbours to grow some local native plants to invite local species into their gardens and their neighbourhood.
- Invite your friends and neighbours to join a local Friends group and help with bushcare activities.
- Enjoy the health benefits of connecting with nature!

## Look out for travel bugs as you wander out yonder

Travellers heading out into Western Australia's wild blue yonder this spring are being asked to join WA's biosecurity efforts by keeping an eye out for unwanted plant and animal pests, and to take precautions to prevent the spread of pests, weeds and disease within the state.

The Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD) is reminding travellers that unwanted weed seeds, disease spores and pests can be expert hitchhikers, unknowingly hiding in or on clothes, camping gear and cars.

While border closures are restricting visitors from other states, the surge in Western Australians travelling within our state means an increased risk in spreading pests that are already present in parts of WA to areas of the state where they aren't. These pests could significantly impact our agriculture industries, the environment and our WA lifestyle. DPIRD says while most travellers know about the need to surrender their fresh fruit and vegetables at the WA border, they might not know that fruit and vegetables cannot be taken into the Ord River Irrigation Area near Kununurra. This

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dozens of Declared Rare Flora and Priority Species and several Threatened Ecological Communities. It was made the Regional Park a biodiversity hotspot of global significance, and offer a world-class opportunity to explore how the complex hydrology and geology of the region have interacted to develop the unique ecological diversity that underlies this biodiversity hotspot. The area also has indigenous cultural heritage and historical values that parallel the natural history and provide another layer of great interest to visitors.



The provision of designated Public Open Space along Yule Brook would enable a 'Living Stream' restoration of the Brook. This would include quiet, natural areas, not readily accessed by people, to enable wildlife to traverse, forage in and/or inhabit this ecological corridor. In terms of community benefit, the natural corridor between Lesmurdie Falls to the Canning River via the Yule Brook lends itself to a 'journey of discovery' through space and time. Within it, our proposed 'Falls to Floodplain Ecological Trail', would provide ca. 8 km of highly scenic, dual-use, pedestrian and bicycle track. The mythological and cultural sites along this journey of the Waigul from the Lesmurdie Falls to the Canning River are highly significant to the indigenous people and to Australian cultural history in general.

## SAVE PERTH HILLS

[www.saveperthhills.net](http://www.saveperthhills.net)

One of the things that makes the Perth Hills, y'know, the Hills is the exceptional bird life. The Black Cockatoo in particular is iconic to this region. But did you know that Carnaby's and Baudin's Black Cockatoo are 'endangered' and that the Forest red-tailed black cockatoo is 'vulnerable'?

The situation with the Black Cockatoo is incredibly dire - Satterley's proposed urban townsite at Stoneville will destroy natural habitat that these beautiful birds and others are clinging onto, just to survive.

An often used strategy by developers is known as 'offsetting' which essentially sets aside land in a different location to enable the clearing of land for a development project... It's a classic case of 'robbing Peter to pay Paul'. Bird's don't just pack up their suitcases to relocate like we might. They nest in old tree hollows that are crafted naturally over time.

Did you also know that there is a pair of Wedge Tailed Eagles nesting in the area of the proposed townsite?

With the proposed destruction of so much habitat - it's also hard to understand the position of the Anglican Church to push on with their appeal to the State Administrative Tribunal... The good news is that North Stoneville has been rejected by the majority of the community, the Shire of Mundaring, the WAPC and many state and federal political leaders. It's hard to imagine this destructive plan ever being more than just a broken plan - but we do need to keep on and see this thing to its end.

### WHAT CAN YOU DO?

1. Check out the Save Perth Hills doc on tips for responding to the environmental report prepared for the Satterley's <https://docs.google.com/.../1NtSgEZKhnzec6HuIk4s7rnvTwn.../edit...>
2. Write a submission on Satterley's Environment report. It doesn't have to be technical or lengthy, just short and from the heart is ok.
3. Send your submission to Satterley (it's the process) REMEMBER to Cc in Save Perth Hills [saveperthhills-inc@gmail.com](mailto:saveperthhills-inc@gmail.com)
4. Tag a mate to do the same!



# Group News Group News Group News



## Swan Estuary Reserves Action Group 's Eventful Spring

By Catherine O'Neill

In addition to the regular *TREEmenduous* Tuesdays at Alfred Cove and the Monthly Monday ay Milyu clean-up, the Group held four other bushcare days, undertaken watering at Alfred Cove and Pelican Point and held an exhibition titled *Overwintering: Summer on the Swan*, between October, 10 and 25.

At the AGM, on 21st October, **Claire Greenwell as our Guest Speaker**, will talk about her PhD research on Fairy Tern, one of the beautiful threatened species reliant on the habitat provided by the Swan Estuary. The meeting starts at 6pm and will be held at the Bracks Library, Alfred Cove.

The **Friends of Melville Bird Sanctuary** have created a wonderful video of just some of the many birds to be found in the Alfred Cove area: <https://youtu.be/E4CnbSMw5sE> . Enjoy!

## Friends of Inglewood Triangle

By Christine Richardson

The Friends of Inglewood Triangle have welcomed receipt of funding through the inaugural City of Stirling Special Projects initiative to support bushland Friends groups. Combined with successful submissions to the federal Communities Environment and Volunteer grant programmes the Friends have made huge progress with our work plan, particularly in the management of phytophthora and persistent weeds.

Recent significant outcomes the Friends have achieved, with support of contractors, include:

- Design, manufacture and installation of boot cleaning stations at the four access points. The design may suit other bushland areas.
- Injection of all trees in the triangle with phosphite.
- Delivery of the first of two onsite bushland weed identification and management training workshops for Friends and interested community members.



Photo by C. Richardson

New boot cleaning station at Inglewood Triangle bushland



Photo by A Bunker



Photo by S Campbell

Weed identification workshop (left) and guided Spring walk (right) at Inglewood Triangle Bushland.



# Group News Group News Group News

Grant funding has also assisted the Friends to deliver our inaugural Spring Walks program which aims to raise awareness of the Triangle's biodiversity and threats plus encourage residents of the local community to join our Friends group.

The City of Stirling Parks and Sustainability team has also maintained its support of our efforts having:

- Completed internal fencing to encourage visitors to stay on the pathways and help minimise phytophthora spread.
- Commissioned a follow up study of phytophthora
- Trialled steam spraying of weeds.

In coming months we look forward to; hosting an onsite dieback management workshop to train Friends in practices to prevent further spread of phytophthora, supporting neighbouring Mt Lawley Golf Club to expand weed management of its bushland and designing a Citizen Science project to monitor the health of trees in Inglewood Triangle.

## Bushcare at Manning Primary School Bushland

By Warwick Broadman

On Sunday morning 13 September, we had a weeding session and wildflower walk at the Manning Primary School Bushland, with advertising done through the P&C and the Manning Community Association (MCA). The MCA also put on a sausage sizzle. About 30 people turned up (including children) and they were set to the task of pulling out fumaria. A good dent was made into the problem. Most people run when weeding is mentioned so it was astonishing to see so many people giving up their time. This was the first time that the MCA has been involved. The MCA also provided a sausage sizzle! This has been our worst year for weeds – not just fumaria.

In past years we have had excellent support from the City of South Perth in the control of tall grass and bulbous weeds. Members of the bush management group asked the education department to lease the land to the City of South Perth so that management of the bushland could be assured into the future. We have previously asked that the land be subject to a Memorandum of Understanding between the Education Department and the Council to no avail, but this time we actually got an apparently positive response. Unfortunately, it only effectively covered part of the bushland's management requirements and so the City had to decline.

We now have to do an enormous amount of hand weeding. This includes control of bulbous weeds such as freesi-  
as. While an attempt was made to spray *oxalis* with met-  
sulphuron nothing happened. Checking it out on the Inter-  
net revealed that metsulphuron should be stored in the dark  
as it is readily altered by light. It also needs a lot of agitat-  
ing. Unfortunately this new knowledge couldn't be put into effect due to an O-ring breaking in the spray bottle pump  
handle. A replacement cost \$30 but was way too big and took weeks to arrive.

We also started the year on the promising note of having a lot of plants available for planting thanks to a grant applied for independently. After initially agreeing to this work proceeding and after the grant application was successful, permission was refused. Fortunately the plants found a home at another primary school (with some bushland) in the City which was only too pleased to take them. However, some funding was still available for some late Fusilade spraying work, which we hope to have done during the next school holidays. Depending on the success of the spraying, we may also have to do a lot of whipper snipping of tall grasses in December to lower the fire risk.

On a positive note, the school's science teacher enlisted the help of Dr Felicity Bradshaw – who wrote the [Be a Bush Scientist](#) resource - to do some field work, involving pit-fall traps, with follow-up class work. The children were obviously interested and engaged. The field work involved two areas: one in the bush and one in a bare area that has been managed by the Department. The results were interesting in that introduced millipedes were in abundance in the bare area but different millipedes were found in the bush. Good quality but affordable digital microscopes were used to look at the creatures collected.



Photo by W Broadman

An example of *Fumaria (Fumaria capreolata)* infestation at Manning Primary School bushland.



Photo by W Broadman

Areas cleared of weeds were replanted with natives.



# Group News Group News Group News

## FRIENDS OF POINT PERON

By James Mumme

While we continue to wait with anxious anticipation for the result of the Department of Planning's decisions on the future of Cape Peron, we attack buckthorn, bridal creeper, Tambuki grass and Geraldton carnation weed. Buckthorns up to 1cm in diameter can be pulled out easily, up to 3cm can be dug out and larger ones must be treated with a herbicide (Access), courtesy of Parks and Wildlife. They are most invasive, grow fast and are incredibly prolific. One plus is the females are carrying berries so they make themselves a target.

For bridal creeper we are going to experiment with growing our own *Puccinia myrsiphylli* instead of using chemicals. Digging them out we have done but there are far too many and some of us are getting beyond that.

A school group, Kolbe College Bush Rangers, has been great at digging out Tambuki grass after first cutting off the seeds. We cross our fingers that the disturbance of soil and the threat of fire will not result in worse effects.

Meantime we are celebrating the life and work of Peter Green OAM, former Deputy President of the Shire of Exmouth and his many other roles including community member of the Cockburn Sound Management Council. Peter died in July this year. He had been a tower of strength in the fight to save Cape Peron from bulldozers with his quiet, gentle, persistent advocacy and his wealth of connections inside various government departments. Peter discovered he had mesothelioma three years ago, contracted while working on HM aircraft carriers in Portsmouth 60 years ago. He wanted to see something built in the part of the Cape where he used to come to find tranquillity and restoration. A start has been made. Volunteers of the Friends of Point Peron (FPP), celebrating fifteen years of action in 2020, will enjoy a new seat under one of the 70 year old tuarts, placed there in memory of Peter Green (*see photo below*).



## Friends of Moore River Estuary (FOMRE)

By Linda Johnson

On July 12, thirty five volunteers joined FOMRE for a day of planting. This planting event was organised by Moore Catchment Council (MCC) and funded through the WA State NRM Program and the Federal Community Environmental Program. Thanks to Moora Citrus for donating oranges

1500 seedlings were planted, grown of locally collected seeds, part of the Guilderton north dunes project that has been going for 6 years with support from the MCC and the Guilderton Community Association.

MCC has attained the funding which first saw 22ha of '4WD degraded' dunes fenced in the first year. Over the next 5 years we planted each June. Three years ago APACE came up and help with seed collection which they grew on so we have been 'provenance planting' since then. Last year we just took the last of the covers off as the tracks are covering so well.



# Group News Group News Group News

MCC also has a 'war against pyp grass' going on as we try to contain the contaminated areas with herbicide, using contractors.

This year we have put the last of these provenance plants into one of these 'degrading' areas, in the hope of outcompeting the weeds. To allow us continue replanting the dunes, MCC organised another seed collection day to be held in Guildford for October.

## Cottesloe Coastcare

*By Marion Ewing*

Despite the restrictions from Covid, Cottesloe Coastcare has once again had a remarkably busy winter. Like many volunteer organisations we are facing the problem of an aging membership and a very physical activity. Over any year we collect seeds from indigenous plants, clean, sort and arrange propagation. Then we need to dig holes and plant thousands of plants including watering and adding soil wetting agents. Before and after establishment, we weed, mulch and water.

After many years of experimenting with infertile, non-wetting coastal sands we have learnt that it is especially important to dig and plant into deep conical shaped holes. In sandy soils this is challenging and extremely hard on backs. So about three years ago we decided to invest in a powered earth auger and have developed a novel auger tool which produces the special holes suited to our needs (see photos).

We used our first auger tool last year and then made minor modifications for this year. This system digs holes in under five seconds in softer soils and allows one fit person to dig many hundreds each day, thus drastically speeding up planting. The added bonus of this system is that when we have our monthly community session, we can have the holes dug the day before and volunteers can plant far more successfully and efficiently.

We have changed our process with new sprayers for the soil wetting agent so one person can follow along behind the auger and apply small shots of agent into each hole and then water before the person planting begins.

For those wondering why we are committed to these large holes we have found the following benefits:

- Removes weed seeds from near the planted seedling;
- Provides some wind protection for the seedling planted at the bottom of the hole;
- Acts as a water catchment concentrating rainfall in the root zone of the seedling;
- Provides a sump to allow comprehensive summer watering without loss of water through run-off on the non-wetting sands.

This year our group (with the help of contractors during Covid lockdown) planted around 4,000 plants. More details at this [link](#).



*Photo by M Ewing*



*Photo by M Ewing*

*Use of a novel auger tool designed to dig holes for planting in coastal dunes increased the efficiency of planting by volunteers.*



# Group News Group News Group News

From the **Friends of Mary Carroll Wetland** Newsletter

This year, the wetland filled up to about three quarters after the winter and early spring. After planting all dryland species, the community planting day with Armadale Gosnells Landcare Group commenced sedge planting, 1,000 plants planted. So far, swampheens have left them alone.

The Friends have joined the Southern River Community Garden, which allowed the Friends a space to grow sedges to get them hardy and flowering prior to planting them out around the wetland.

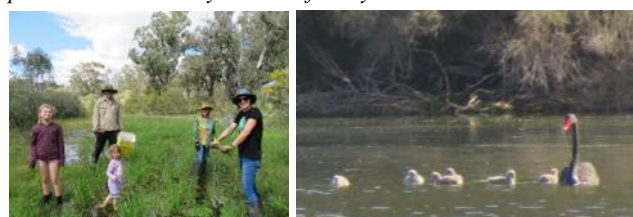
Despite rubbish bins being placed in the reserve, litter is an issue that the Friends are tackling. Volunteers are sought to join in once a week to pick up rubbish and so prevent it entering the wetland.

Weekly weeding and other bushcare activities are undertaken on Mondays at May Street between 8.00 and 11.00am and on Wednesdays at Eudoria Street between 9.00 and 10.30 am. All welcome. In addition to the regular bushcare, the following activities are planned:

- Tuesday, October 27 - Wetland Wonders activity with Gosnells Primary School
- Tuesday, November 10 - NAIDOC week walk with the City of Gosnells



*Mary Carroll Wetland with an insert photo of pink-eared duck that can be viewed from the Barcombe Way view area. Park in Barcombe Way off James Street or Eudoria Street car park. Photos courtesy Friend of Mary Carroll Wetland.*



*Volunteers at this years community planting day (left) and the black swan with its young. Photos courtesy Friend of Mary Carroll Wetland.*

## News from Environment House

*By Warren Haley*

Also known as Enviro House, this community group promotes and encourages the use of sustainable products that will have minimal impact on the natural environment. Its premises and shop are located in Bayswater opposite Eric Singleton Bird Sanctuary. Up to 30 volunteers manage the Eco shop and fruit and vegetable garden. The shop has a range of garden products from soil improvers to fruit fly baits, kitchen waste decomposers such as worm farms and bokashi bins. Many of the 650 products consist of personal care and home cleaning items, keep cups and drink containers. Products are sourced as local as possible with a large emphasis on their environmental status. The shop is open Tues -Thurs 9am -1pm, Fri 9am-12pm, Sat 10am-4pm.

Not only a shop but Enviro House has regular workshops on composting, seed-saving, growing native plants, vegetable and fruit growing, keeping chickens, bee hotels and sustainable practices. Yearly we distribute 6,000 native plants to local residents on behalf of the City of Bayswater. Volunteers also support samphire planting in Maylands and native plantings along the Swan River environs.

Over the past year we have provided a drop off centre for used milk and bottle tops, toothpaste and toothbrushes, jars, and personal hygiene containers. These are sorted and sent to recycling companies.



*Photo by W Haley*

You will find information on products , workshops and events at [www.envirohouse.org.au](http://www.envirohouse.org.au)



## FRIENDS OF NORTH OCEAN REEF – ILUKA FORESHORE

By Don Poyton

One of the most striking flowers at the moment is the Coastal Pigface (*Carpobrotus virescens*), just north of Iluka Foreshore Park. The plant with its rich pink flowers is a prostrate coastal succulent shrub of the family Aizoaceae. It is a native to Western Australia and is known as Kolbogo or Metjarak by the Nyoongar peoples.

A similar looking plant, but a weed, is the Hottentot Fig (*Carpobrotus edulis*). This South African native can be distinguished at this time of the year because its flower is initially yellow before fading and turning light pink.

Unfortunately this is the species often sold in nurseries around Perth. It is also known to hybridize with *C. virescens*.

Both these species have large blooms up to fifty millimetres in diameter. In contrast, the third member of this genus that occurs throughout the reserve, *Carpobrotus modestus*, has flowers that are only thirty millimetres or less in diameter and overall is a much smaller and less vigorous plant.

Helpers are always welcome to join in our weeding days, on Thursdays and Saturdays, between 8 and 10 am, meeting at Iluka Foreshore car park. On Saturdays, there are also guided walks.

If you turn up late for an event, check the whiteboard near our banner to see where we are working, or call mobile 0419 460 301. Don't forget to sign the Sign-On Sheet.

A reminder to regularly check our Facebook page in case there are last minute changes to the events or to check if additional sessions with other volunteers or students have been scheduled. [www.facebook.com/groups/238527943276186](https://www.facebook.com/groups/238527943276186)



Above: *Carpobrotus virescens* or the native Coastal pigface.

Below: The introduced species *Carpobrotus edulis*



Photo by D Poyton

## Minimising Fire Risk: check roadsides

After our unusually warm winter and low rainfall, grassy weeds have already flowered and are setting seed. In some places wild oats is already dry. Many road verges in our suburbs are displaying lots of weeds and some householders have not been mowing their verges regularly to maintain them as lawn.

Adjacent to bushland reserves, maintenance of the road verges is the responsibility of the Local Government Authority or Main Roads. What is the state of the road verges adjacent to your bushland? They are drying out sooner this year than in the past years, so it is important that the mowing and slashing of road verges is done now. Local Governments may not have revised their maintenance program to ensure this work is completed this month of October.

### Actions needed:

- Do a road verge check on all sides of your bushland.
- If growth is tall and weedy, contact the Local Government Environmental Officer to request their action to mow it and remove seed heads.
- If it is a major road or freeway, contact Main Roads WA for their urgent attention.
- Weed the verge at your home and mow it.
- Encourage the installation of hydrants adjacent to your bushland so that a fire can be extinguished quickly and effectively. Fast attack is essential.
- Raise awareness with neighbouring residents of suspicious behaviour and the need to report it immediately to the police arson squad.



is to prevent the introduction of Mediterranean fruit fly (Medfly) to the area. Medfly is established in the south of WA, from Carnarvon through to Esperance.

Another example is restrictions on the movement of honey and bee products out of the Kimberley region, to protect our bees and prevent the spread of small hive beetle to the rest of the state.

DPIRD says hitchhiking pests of high biosecurity concern to WA in 2020 include the Russian wheat aphid, European wasps, cane toads, and any weeds with prickly 'burrs'.

Simple actions such as brushing off dirt from shoes and camping equipment, and bagging food scraps will go a long way to keeping the state safe from these biosecurity threats. These guidelines are not tough and can easily become part of normal travelling practices.

DPIRD points out these actions will also help thwart those opportunistic pests that are not established in WA, but which occasionally breach state borders on clothing and vehicles, and in fresh fruit and vegetables.

Priority hitchhiking pests not in WA, but which we still need to keep an eye out for, include red imported fire ant, Queensland fruit fly, and the plant disease myrtle rust (which is spread by spores). Also watch out for birds such as starlings and sparrows.

Early detection of these pests is key to eradication. To make reports and send photos of any suspect pests, weeds, birds or plant damage, download the MyPestGuide™ app onto a mobile device, or go online to make a report – [mypestguide.agric.wa.gov.au](http://mypestguide.agric.wa.gov.au).

You can also send a report to our Pest and Disease Information Service via [padis@dpird.wa.gov.au](mailto:padis@dpird.wa.gov.au) or call 9368 3080.

#### Tips for travellers

- Fresh fruit and vegetables can harbour pests such as Mediterranean and Queensland fruit fly. Play it safe by buying as you go, or dispose of produce in amnesty bins that are available throughout the State.
- Dispose of food waste securely in plastic bags before placing in rubbish bins. This will prevent spread of pests if food is infested.
- Brush down luggage and contents, shoes, clothing, tents, sleeping bags and other items before moving to your next location.
- Check your socks, shoes and clothing for burrs and seeds.
- Clean and dry all boating and fishing gear before fishing another waterway.
- Shake out car mats before moving on.
- Regularly remove bugs in car grills and check for seeds trapped in the tire grooves.
- Do not dispose of food waste in waterways – particularly crustacean heads and shells.
- Place dry food in airtight containers (including cereal, packaged grains, beans, lentils and seeds).
- Always check your pet's fur and paws for bugs, seeds and burrs before entering your vehicle.
- Keep your dogs on a leash at all times as poison 1080 baits are used throughout the state for the control of feral pests such as foxes, pigs and wild dogs.
- Respect farm biosecurity. Call owners before entering a property.

## Mother Nature Stories - Learn & Share

### Wingless female Clouded Coachman moth laying eggs and male adjacent.

By Margaret Owen

Nature is amazing. I found this assemblage on our back fence in Wembley.

The wingless female moth has come out of her pupal case within the cocoon. The cocoon had been made out of silk and caterpillar hairs and was attached to the fence.

Outside the cocoon, the female would have sent out her pheromones that attracted the male moth. When I found them, the female was laying eggs one by one on the outside of the cocoon. This proved to be a long process. Even the next day she was still laying eggs and perhaps well over 100 eggs were laid.

These moths are quite common and are called 'clouded coachman' or *Anestia ombrophanes*, but it is not every day you can see part of the string of events in their life.

A week later I saw another cocoon covered in eggs attached to the boardwalk at Herdsman Lake.

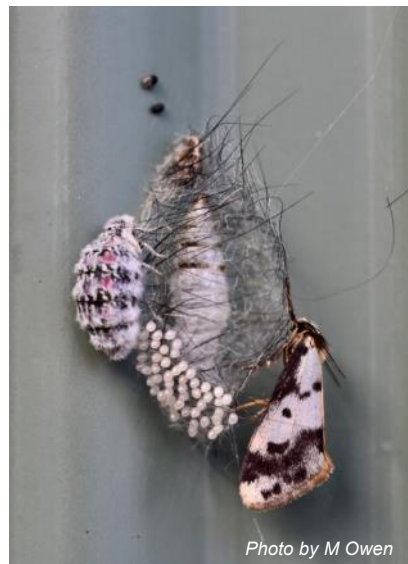


Photo by M Owen



Photo by K Sarti  
Greg Keighery, renowned botanist and 2020 recipient of the Medal of Order of Australia talking about the 'blooming biodiversity' of Western Australia at the UBC's AGM in March this year.



Photo by M Owen  
Above: Don Poyton of Joondalup Coastcare shares his knowledge of plants of coastal dunes now being developed for residential development and marina at Ocean Reef, April 2020.



Photo by R Greenwood  
Left: Participants in a guided walk in Neerabup National Park exploring one of fauna underpasses in May. The walk was hosted by the Quinn Rocks Environmental Group

## 'Tails of Urban Bushland'

Artist Barbara Haddy and nature lover Margaret Owen are holding an exhibition of Barbara's art and Margaret's photographs.

The works partner each other and connect ideas and stories of development and loss on the Swan Coastal Plain.

The exhibition is entitled 'Tails of Urban Bushland' with the sub-title: 'Birds, bugs, bush and buildings.'

The Subiaco Museum behind the Subiaco Library is the place and the exhibition will run from 20 November 2020 until late January.



Photo by M Owen



## 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 \$60 a year (GST included). A growing membership strengthens the cause and groups benefit from the network.

### Individuals:

Supporter membership is only \$50 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

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## NEWSLETTER ITEMS

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