

Friends of Beenyup Channel, Woodvale Waters



Photo by M. Owen

Guided walk participants, Beenyup Channel of Joondalup Lake, Woodvale

What strikes you arriving at Streeton Promenade beside the Beenyup Channel of Lake Joondalup is the serenity and quietness.

Noongar elder, Iva Hayward-Jackson, spoke to the group of 30 participants at the Urban Bushland Council’s guided walk at the Woodvale Waters and Beenyup Channel. This area was a favourite food bowl for the Noongar groups for tens of thousands of years. The huge Tuart, Marri, Jarrah and Paperbarks were cleared by Europeans to farm the edge of the lake. Some of these majestic trees still remain in a thin strip around the lake.

Iva told us that the animals gave their names to the people, rather than the people naming them. The names sound like the calls made, for example Wardong – the Raven. Iva also emphasised to a young lad in the audience that this is his world now.

With his wife Jan, Bryan Saunders, of Woodvale Waters and Friends of Beenyup Channel Group then took us for a walk to describe and see the work being done. The Group has three and a half officers but when planting events are scheduled there could be around 20 or 30 people assisting. People from the Cities of Joondalup and Wanneroo, the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions, the Woodvale Scouts, Friends of Yella-gonga and the community help with planting.

Underground water flowing in from the east carries nutrients from past activities within the Wangara area including chicken farms and market gardens. This flows into the NE corner of the Channel area and then flows via the Channel to Lake Joondalup. To mitigate the influence of nutrients, hundreds of sedges have been planted within the Channel and along

(Continued on page 2)

Inside this issue:

The Precautinary principle and good decision-making	3
Saving our Snake-necked turtles	4
Group’s News	6

Native plants are blooming in our urban bushland; birds are nesting; bushcare groups are hosting wildflower festivals. Spring is the time for enjoyment and celebration of nature's treasures.

This October the UBC is hosting the Bush Forever 21st Birthday, celebrating the successful Bush Forever program to "Keep the Bush in the City", and all those who have contributed to the creation and enactment of this whole of Government plan. The much-anticipated Bush Forever Audit will be released on the night by the Hon. Jessica Stojkovski, MLA Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Planning. It is expected that the audit will detail the status of all 287 Bush Forever Areas, showing land tenure details of all sites, the current conservation land managers where these have been allocated, and the way ahead for completion.

Notably, complete implementation of the Bush Forever program is now more than a decade overdue and there is still work to be done to acquire the last few sites, to transfer all sites to 'A' class Crown Reserve status for conservation, and to allocate and *most importantly* fund conservation land managers, especially the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions, where this has not yet occurred. It is important however, to celebrate this 21 year milestone of implementation. All Bush Forever sites protect our highly diverse and unique flora, fauna and ecosystems.

Spring is also a time for reflection. The Australia's State of the Environment (SoE) Report was sobering. Our biodiversity continues to decline and the number of threatened species continues to increase due to clearing, habitat loss and degradation, climate change and invasive species. In WA, there has not been a State of the Environment Report since 2007. All other States do these reports regularly each 3- 5 years. One of the WA Labor 2017 election promises was to reinstate the WA SoE report. This has not happened yet.

As an example, about half of the 25 species of Australian freshwater turtles are listed as threatened, and Dr Anthony Santoro thinks the snake-necked turtle of the southwest may be heading that way. He is on a mission to collect as much

data as he can, encouraging people to join the new Turtle Tracking program to help monitor and protect nesting females and their nests.

Much more needs to be done to conserve urban wetlands, bushlands and their linkages. The Urban Bushland Council WA Inc. and the Wetlands Conservation Society (Inc), have together produced '[Biodiversity 2022 – issues and actions](#)'. Its key focus is the WA southwest biodiversity hotspot region. In further steps, an action plan will focus on the Swan Coastal Plain (SCP) subregion - which includes fully implementing Bush Forever and strengthening its statutory protection. We will work alongside the traditional custodians of the land, recognising and protecting Noongar cultural heritage and landscapes on the SCP.

The recent 10 year independent review by Professor Graeme Samuel of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*, clearly showed that our laws are failing to adequately protect nature. His recommendations must all be fully implemented.

Amendments were recently made to the WA *Environmental Protection (EP) Act 1986* and are just beginning to be implemented. The changes are unlikely to be enough. The UBC will host a workshop in late November that examines the EP Act further - what's working and what still needs fixing - to achieve better outcomes for the environment. A session on writing effective submissions to the EPA will also be included.

When it comes to protecting nature, a great deal of responsibility lies on our leaders. As an example, the EPA and environmental decision makers should be properly considering and applying the precautionary principle - thus **preventing and avoiding** environmental degradation as a priority even when there is a lack of scientific certainty.

Collective efforts across the entire community will be needed to solve our climate and biodiversity crises. All levels of government and the community need to act together on these crises.

(Continued from page 1)

the southern edge of the lake. While many of the sedges are underwater now, it is expected that they will survive once water levels recede.

Iva commented that Typha was a very important carbohydrate food for Noongar people. A historian in the group told us that early settlers used Typha for road base and for making rope. Ropes were made in Subiaco.

The south part of Lake Joondalup got cut off and this is now known as South Lake. The Friends group will in the future change its name to the Friends of South Lake. The lake water is at its highest level now but

historically the lake should dry out. Because of this amount of water present, trees are being lost as they need a dry period. A very old Melaleuca has become rotten and died. This is because of urban development that allows more runoff from hard surfaces and also at least one major rain event in January/February and/or the past two very wet winters which have raised the water levels markedly. Even after 30mm of rain, water runs through into the lake.

Large areas of grass could become a forest if a commitment from governments was made.

The whole area is a Regional Park but there is pressure to have infrastructure there - for example - a skate park.

Planting around the lake is difficult as the 'grassy' area is solid weed. To prepare an area to be planted, weeds are sprayed, mown, slashed and holes dug with augers. Crystals and a nutrient tab are inserted before planting and this is followed by watering from a 400 litre tank every second or third week. Over 2022, Banksia, Tuart, Eucalyptus rudis, Hakea and Marri have been planted. Bryan commented that as we clear, plant, and manage an area, a lot of native plants appear. Around the lake's edge the group is encouraging the growth of Centella as a management tool that deters weed and sedge growth.

Congratulations on the work done. The guided group was so impressed with the great volume of work done and the expertise gained by this small but dynamic trio.



Photo by M. Owen

The Precautionary Principle and Good Decision-Making

By Dr Hugh Finn

The interpretation of the precautionary principle adopted by Justice Moshinsky provides a helpful framework for how decision-makers *ought* to apply the precautionary principle when making decisions, as a matter of *good* environmental decision-making.

In a recent Federal Court case, [*Bob Brown Foundation Inc v Minister for the Environment \(No 2\)* \[2022\] FCA 873](#), Justice Moshinsky considered the operation of the precautionary principle in decision-making for environmental impact assessment under the Commonwealth *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act).

This approach may be useful to you in structuring your submissions to decision-makers under both the EPBC Act and the State *Environmental Protection Act 1986* (EP Act). Some key points to consider:

1. The definitions of the precautionary principle under the EPBC Act and the State *Environmental Protection Act 1986* are similar. The EPBC Act defines the precautionary principle in this way:

The precautionary principle is that lack of full scientific certainty should not be used as a reason for postponing a measure to prevent degradation of the environment where there are threats of serious or irreversible environmental damage.

The EP Act definition is:

Where there are threats of serious or irreversible damage, lack of full scientific certainty should not be used as a reason for postponing measures to prevent environmental degradation.

In the application of the precautionary principle, decisions should be guided by —

- (a) careful evaluation to avoid, where practicable, serious or irreversible damage to the environment; and
- (b) an assessment of the risk-weighted consequences of various options.

2. In preparing your submissions, there are two basic questions to ask:

- (1) Did the decision-maker consider whether the precautionary principle applies to the decision?
- (2) If the precautionary principle does apply to the decision-maker, did the decision-maker apply appropriate precautionary measures?

Question 1 – does the precautionary principle apply?

3. The precautionary principle applies to a decision if two thresholds are met. The first threshold is if there is a scientifically credible threat of serious or irreversible environmental damage. The Federal Court case followed a 2006 NSW case in finding that the threats to be addressed “include direct and indirect threats, secondary and long-term threats and the incremental or cumulative impacts of multiple or repeated actions or decision”.

4. If such a threat exists, then the second threshold is whether there is scientific uncertainty as to the nature and scope of the threat of environmental damage.

5. If both thresholds are met, then the precautionary principle applies and precautionary measures should be applied.
6. For some decisions, the decision-maker is legally required to take the precautionary principle into account. For others, the precautionary principle is merely a consideration that the decision-maker is allowed to take into account.
7. Either way, decision-makers should expressly consider both thresholds and clearly explain their reasoning for why the two thresholds are met or not met. Where a decision-maker does not provide this information, submissions should indicate that ‘Decision-maker X failed to consider whether the precautionary principle applies to the decision because ...’

Question 2 – if the precautionary principle applies, what precautionary measures are appropriate?

8. What type of precautionary measures should be applied will depend on the particular threat, including its seriousness and irreversibility, and the uncertainty about it.
9. The precautionary principle, if applicable, does not necessarily prohibit an activity or development – however, at the principle’s core is the common sense notion that is far better to prevent harm now than to wait until it is too late to reverse the harm or too costly and difficult to fix it.
10. The EP Act’s definition of the precautionary principles expressly indicates that decision should be guided by careful evaluation to avoid, where practicable, serious or irreversible damage to the environment and an assessment of the risk-weighted consequences of various options. If you have submitted that the two thresholds are met for a decision under the EP Act, then it is helpful to also make submissions about what such an evaluation and assessment might entail – and to point out when a decision-makers has failed to do this.
11. Cumulative impacts: Along with identifying the threats of serious or irreversible environmental damage arising from the loss of an area of bushland itself, it may also be helpful to identify threats for the proposed clearing in terms of cumulative impacts – e.g. that the loss of this patch of Banksia Woodland is part of a larger incremental loss of this ecological community within the region. You can then also describe the seriousness and irreversibility (including any relevant ecological thresholds or transition points or other points where changes might become irreversible or irremediable, including social impacts relating to the loss of native bushland) in cumulative, incremental context.
12. Proportionality: It is helpful if you can explain how any proposed precautionary measures are proportionate to the threat and, if relevant, why such measures are practicable to implement.

Saving our Snake-Necked Turtles

By Heidi Hardisty

Dr. Anthony Santoro has been studying snake-necked turtles for the past 6 years. He has surveyed over 70 wetlands, caught 4000 turtles, and tagged and tracked hundreds. But he is concerned - as turtle numbers continue to decline. Their official conservation status is near-threatened, but Anthony thinks it's much worse and he's trying to prove it.

Anthony is on a mission to collect more data and teach people how they can help. He spoke to a full room of keen turtle lovers at Lake Claremont recently about his new research on turtle nesting, urging people to sign up to the new Turtle Tracker program.

The snake-necked or oblong turtle (*Chelodina oblonga*) is endemic to the southwest of WA, living anywhere near water including lakes, rivers and swamps. Males have long tails and are smaller than the short-tailed females. They are important predators in wetlands, helping to keep mosquito and midge larvae in check. But they are being impacted by climate change, urbanisation and predation – especially by foxes and ravens.

While trapping turtles in various wetlands, Anthony saw that, overall, southwest turtle populations are not healthy - lacking juveniles and females - meaning there is a big problem with recruitment. At Lake Claremont he caught 389 beasts in a 2-week period. 91% were adults and 60% males.

In his new research, he has discovered that turtles have their own personality and travel habits. Some nest at different places from year to year, others not. Most turtles exhibit one of three movement strategies: about 35% are sedentary, not straying far from one area; 60% are 'shifters' moving to a new home range 2-5 times every 2 months; about 5% were nomadic.

He noticed that eggs hatched asynchronously (randomly), as did hatchlings - emerging randomly from their nests between March and September. Some stay in the nest for months. Although the hatchlings had an 80% emergence success, few survive the perilous journey to adulthood.

Climate change is hindering the breeding success of turtles. Decreasing rainfall translates into longer periods when seasonal wetlands are dry. Turtles must aestivate to



Photo by A Santoro

Snake-necked turtle at Lake Claremont (Photo credit Friends of Lake Claremont Facebook).

survive these dry periods. Their metabolism slows and they live off their body fat while burrowed in the mud; they can only feed in water. Short periods of aestivation are normal, but extended periods are not. In one study, an animal aestivated for 581 days at North Lake – which Anthony believes is a world record. A turtle can miss an entire nesting season, and possibly the next.

As the climate changes, there is also a decrease frequency in cold fronts which normally trigger nesting. Ideal conditions occur as the barometric pressure and temperature drops, as humidity and rainfall rise. Rain makes it easier for females to dig holes and helps to prevent both dehydration and predation of nests (by masking the scent of the nest from foxes). It is concerning that in recent years rain did not occur in approximately half of the days turtle were observed nesting.

Increasing air temperatures have caused incubation times to be reduced from 230 to 200 days. Turtles can hatch as early as March, when temperatures are high and wetlands are low in water. Eggs can die or juveniles can dehydrate.

Urbanisation is posing a huge threat. While most turtles nest within 300 meters of a wetland, some can travel 500-900 meters. The journey to and from the wetland for the adult and juvenile is perilous. Loss of native vegetation and sandy areas mean females must travel further to find a suitable nesting site. Very often they give up, encountering roads or other obstacles such as fences and end up laying their eggs in sub-optimal places. One female laid her eggs in several nests along a wall. A fox dug up the nests and ate all the eggs.

How to Help the Snake-necked Turtles?

There are many ways to help save our snake-necked turtles including wetland restoration, removal of foxes and installing nesting refuges.

Anthony is encouraging people to join a Turtle Tracker Program near you.

To join, like and share the [Saving our Snake-Necked Turtles facebook page](#).

And download the TurtleSAT app (<https://www.turtlesat.org.au/turtlesat/>) to help with the [#savingoursnakeneckedturtle](#) project

As Anthony says: “The more we know, the more we can help”.



Photo by N Cook

Snake-necked turtle hatchling at Lake Claremont (Photo credit Friends of Lake Claremont Facebook).

Coastal Champions: Walter Kolb and Don Poyton

By Sue Conlan

Photos courtesy of Stirling Natural Environment Coastcare & Friends of North Ocean Beach –Iluka Foreshore

Walter Kolb, Works Co-ordinator of Stirling Natural Environment Coastcare received the Department of Planning, Land and Heritage's prestigious Coastal Champion award on Monday 19th September at the 2022 State NRM and Coastal Conference in Mandurah.

At the same event, Don Poynton, Co-ordinator of Friends of North Ocean Reef - Iluka Foreshore, received a Special Commendation.



Walter Kolb, Stirling Natural Environmental Coastcare volunteer

Walter says, it's hard not to be a champion when you love nature and have one of the world's most beautiful coastlines nearby to protect.

Ocean Reef and Iluka foreshore, this sunset strip has one of the most popular paths in Perth and is known for its breathtaking beauty. If you look closer, the coastal vegetation is unique. Wind blasted, dense habitat for a variety of birds and animals, most gone now from Perth. Stand here with nature, hear the waves breaking on sculptured cliffs, feel the wind on your skin, the sand under your feet, smell the ocean. This unbuilt landscape needs protecting. It provided a fulfilling life for the Whadjuk people - freshwater springs, an abundance of seafood and land food, shelter and now it heals our soul to come here, quickly transporting us from our busy work schedule to inner peace and tranquillity.

With a background in agriculture, horticulture, landcare, heavy machinery use and grounds management, Walter has been a gift to the community to steer the restoration and conservation of the diverse, City of Stirling Coastal foreshore dunes, volunteering here since 2004.



Coastal path along the Iluka foreshore.



Walter Kolb, left, with other Stirling Natural Environment Coastcare volunteers in front of sea containers in Scarborough, donated to support the group's activities.

For more than 30 years Don Poyton has taken on leading roles with Friends of Marmion Marine Park, Friends of North Ocean Reef - Iluka Foreshore, Joondalup Community Coast Care Forum and the Northern Suburbs branch of the WA Naturalists Club.



Don Poyton leading a guided walk at Ocean Reef coastal dunes.



Don leading a community walk to farewell the coast and coastal Bush Forever that he and many had been caring for over decades to make way for a marina and housing development.

Both Walter and Don have been endearing our natural world to the community, involving schools and community in beach clean ups, weeding, planting, bio surveys, guided walks, writing newsletters, attending educational forums, monitoring, reporting, marketing, grant applications and acquittals, liaising with their natural areas land managers, lobbying councillors and MP's, writing submissions and standing up for good governance and planning to protect our natural inheritance.

We thank you, Walter and Don, for being coastal champions!

Underwood Bushland turnaround

By Margaret Owen

Driven by the University's Vice-Chancellor Professor Amit Chakma, development of housing in the bushland has been abandoned and the University is looking for 'blue-sky thinking' on what could be considered in a protected bushland.

The Friends of Underwood Avenue Bushland met V-C Chakma last year and he explained that he has a responsibility to realise the optimal benefit (capital) from the original endowment of land in 1904.

That endowment was 614 acres (248 hectares). Land was cleared for UWA Sports Park, HBF Stadium, UWA Field Station. The remaining uncleared part of 34 hectares is Underwood Avenue Bushland.

Last year we saw with alarm that the bushland had been surveyed and consultants were carrying out work on cockatoo food species and vegetation. It was one of those critical events over the lifetime of the bushland.

We had recently weathered the Market-led Proposal over the confidential 'Shenton Precinct' that had threatened the bushland with some sort of development.

Our 13,000 person signed petition requesting the Premier to buy the bushland from the University was unable to be delivered because it was impossible to get it to the Premier.

The light came flickering through when the Friends of Underwood Avenue Bushland was invited to a meeting at the University to discuss new plans for Underwood Bushland. We were told that the University had withdrawn the previous plan for over 200 residences from the EPA and that the bushland is now considered an asset.

118 years after the endowment, the bushland is to be protected and at last managed.

Plans for some sort of redevelopment of the UWA Field Station area that houses science and agricultural industries, aquaculture, and coastal processes research, are being considered. 'Some sort of redevelopment' sounds

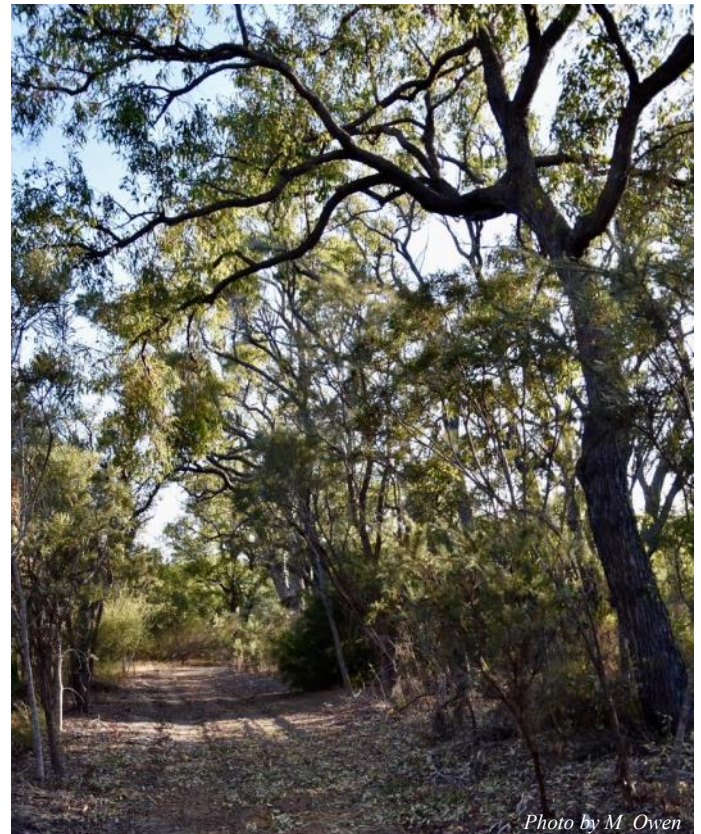


Photo by M. Owen

vague but the Friends have been told that plans over this area are yet to be decided.

The caveat to this good news, is that it is possible or likely that some of the bushland on the west side, adjacent to the field station will or may have to have to be cleared as part of that development. The University is aware that the bushland is a Bush Forever site and that it is an environmentally sensitive area.

From October the Friends and community in cooperation with the University will be hand-weeding twice a month. As the University will be publicising this, we are feeling optimistic and are encouraged to think that the whole bushland will be protected. We are looking to make a wonderful difference to the condition and future of the bush.

Pink Fairies in the Garden

By Heidi Hardisty

Hundreds of Pink Fairy Orchids (*Caladendia latifolia*) have popped up in the remnant bushland at Lake Claremont this spring. Since 2010, when the first orchid was spotted, the flowers have slowly been multiplying - an indication that the bush is starting to regenerate naturally. It has taken decades of work and ongoing weed management to reach this stage. Very exciting!

Originally a paperbark swamp surrounded by Tuart and Banksia Woodland, the natural area was nearly destroyed by European settlers clearing the land for timber, farming and housing. In the 1960s, much of the wetland was filled in as a rubbish dump and turned into playing fields and two golf courses. Happily, Lake Claremont is now recognised as a Conservation Category Wetland and Bush Forever site. The Friends of Lake Claremont, together with the Town of Claremont, have been leading one of the largest urban restoration projects in Australia. Over 10 hectares of native bushland has now been planted transforming one of the old golf courses to a beautiful parkland.

The story of the Lake Claremont and the community drive to conserve and enhance it will be featured on Gardening Australia soon. (Date to be announced).



Photo by H. Hardisty

Group News Group News Group News

Tackling weeds at Jirdarup

By Klaus Backheuer

Jirdarup Hand Weeding Project is a new three-year collaborative project which aims to test the efficacy of chemical-free hand weeding in a designated section of Kensington Bushland, Victoria Park (within the Jirdarup Bushland Precinct). Twice a week since early July, our diligent weeding team have managed to reduce the weed load in our patch while getting close to nature. The bushland biodiversity continues to amaze and inspire - from orange ‘[slime mould](#)’ and [rare orchids](#) to [self-sown jarrah seedlings](#)!

Working alongside an expert [SERCUL](#) team of weeders (funded from a State NRM grant), the Friends of Jirdarup weeding group have been learning how to target the worst weeds and protect the native plants at the same time.

We have developed a Jirdarup weed ID guide and provide training based on our mantra:

1. **Minimise soil disturbance**
2. **When in doubt, don't pull it out!**
3. **Tread carefully!**

The SERCUL professionals completed around 170 hours, the weeding Friends have done almost 300 (unpaid) hours so far! The project will continue through October and may possibly be scaled back for the summer.

It's flowering time in our bushland. Among all the natives there is a pretty looking flower, the *Gladiolus caryophyllaceus*, also known as Pink Gladiolus. Yes, they do look pretty but looks can deceive. *Gladiolus caryophyllaceus* are indeed a widespread weed in Western Australia's bushlands, originating from the Cape Provinces in South Africa (where they are considered as endangered – how ironical).



Friends of Jirdarup weeding team in action. Photo courtesy of Friends of Jirdarup.



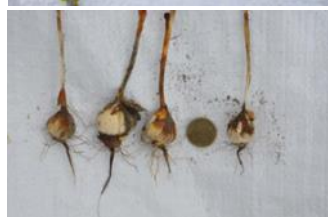
Gladiolus are a member of the iris (Iridaceae) family and grow to 0.8 m high. Their leaves have a distinctive red margin and are slightly twisted. They were most likely introduced to Australia as a garden plant and can now be found in all of our Banksia bushlands on the Swan Coastal Plain and as far as Lake Grace in the south of the State. During this time of the year you can see them flowering and also find advertisements for a “Grab a Gladdy (Gladioli) Day” in most bushland patches around Perth.

If the Gladiolus are left untreated, they will spread over the bushland in high numbers and impact other plants, i.e. competing with orchids and other native plants for space, water and pollinators. In other words, they are a major threat to the conservation values of Banksia woodlands.

The pink flowers will mature and turn into seed pods, each of them producing hundreds of seeds per plant each season. The seeds then get blown away by the wind and spread even further. But this clever survivor even has a second way to reproduce: a corms or bulb.



The bulb can withstand fires and, even worse, they develop cormils (baby bulbs) attached to the parent bulb. If the parent plant is removed from the ground the cormils break off and stay in the soil. The cormils then grow into new plants and replace the parent. It doesn't matter how many times you pull up the plant growing in the one spot, there will always be cormils waiting to grow up and replace it. The only way to kill the cormils is to poison the parent plant while the cormils are still attached to the parent bulb.



The Friends of Jirdarup Bushland have tried for over two decades to eradicate *Gladiolus caryophyllaceus* from Jirdarup (Kensington) Bushland. Manual weeding was organized every year during the flowering season (August – October). It's a massive effort and the results have been relatively poor. We basically only managed to keep their numbers at bay.

In February 2016 a bushfire swept through the bushland, burning about 75% of the area, including the gladiolus. However, they were growing back in spring 2016 – as expected. But due to the fire this time they were not only easy to spot but also easily accessible. The Friends realized that this would open up a “window of opportunity” for a targeted

Pink gladiolus, its seeds (centre) and bulbs (bottom).

Photos by K Backheuer

Group News Group News Group News

eradication program for the “gladdies”. We advocated for a contractor to be employed by the Town of Victoria Park for a hand-wiping eradication treatment. It is a tedious task where you manually wipe the individual leaves of the plants with a 10% Glyphosate liquid. This will poison the bulb and eventually kill the plant.

The Town has since done this every year and for the first time in decades, there seems to be a noticeable success. In 2022 Gladiolus numbers are at an all-time low at Jirdarup (Kensington) Bushland, and we hope to reduce them to an absolute minimum within the next few years, with the prospect of maintaining this success through hand-weeding.



MENTAL HEALTH WEEK TALK & WALK:

LEARN ABOUT:

- Benefits of the natural environment for physical and mental health;
- Aboriginal connection to country and the healing power of nature.

HEAR FROM:

- Marie Taylor, Noongar Elder
- Dr Marisa Gilles, Public Health Physician

JOIN US for a guided Spring walk through Jirdarup Bushland – a biodiversity hotspot in the suburbs!

- **FREE entry** – \$5 donation.
- Coffee van on-site – morning tea provided.
- Accessible venue. Toilets on site.

www.fobj.org.au

Venue: Harold Rossiter Clubhouse, Etwell Street, East Victoria Park

Free Parking: in the clubhouse car park

Organiser: Friends of Jirdarup Bushland

RSVP: trybooking.com/CCFTK or scan the QR code



Contact: events@friendsofjirdarupbushland.org.au or Vicki on 0416 049 550.

This event is supported through the WA Government's State NRM program.



Artwork by Darryl Bellotti | Poster by Sarah Dimmock

PARROT BUSH – A REAL HERO.

By Cate Tauss

Banksia sessilis (Parrot Bush) is a real HERO (keystone species in "ecological speak"). The seeds of this shrub on Manning Ridge at Hamilton Hill, provide a protein booster to sustain our Freo-Cockburn, Carnaby's Cockatoo flock (and all the ecological benefits this flock brings to our bushland) over the hard times in late summer and autumn. Then in winter, *Banksia sessilis* keeps on giving by flowering early and its flowers give the Carnaby's a sweet treat too.



Photo by C Tauss

Also all of our "special" small and pretty birds (that are, otherwise, locally extinct throughout the biodiversity desert that is the sprawling urban and industrial land that covers most of City of Fremantle and City of Cockburn) love the nectar and pollen flow of the Parrot Bush and the insects that these attract. These special, birds that are in decline over the Swan Coastal Plain and have been locally extirpated in most suburbs, are called CS3 avifauna. At Manning Ridge, they number at least 11 species and include Splendid Fairy-wren, Purple-backed Fairy-wren, White-cheeked Honeyeater, New Holland Honeyeater, Western Spinebill, White-browed Scrubwren, Yellow-rumped Thornbill, Inland Thornbill, Rufous Whistler, Western Whistler, Red-capped Robin etc.

Most of them don't like to cross wide gaps in the canopy so when the thick scrub is cut up into small polygons, they just stay in their polygon and when resources in that polygon run out, that's good bye to them.

World Migratory Birds Days - May & October

By R. Napier

Reprinted with permission from Swan Estuary Reserves Action Group (SERAG) Newsletter, Vol 13, Issue 1 2022

Photographs by J. Christenson & R. Weir

Celebrated across the world on two peak days each year – on the second Saturday in May and the second Saturday in October – World Migratory Bird Day (WMBD) is the only international awareness-raising and education program that celebrates the migration of bird species along all the major flyways of the world.

In the Southern Hemisphere, WMBD in May celebrates these amazing birds reaching their summer breeding areas in Asia and the Arctic tundra, having left our shores in March/April. On WMBD in October, we welcome them back after their monumental flight.

The Effect of Artificial Light Pollution on Migratory Birds will be the focus of the World Migratory Bird Day 2022 campaign with the slogan “Dim the Lights for Birds at Night”.

Artificial light is increasing globally by at least 2% per year and it is known to adversely affect many bird species. Light pollution is a significant threat to migratory birds, causing disorientation when they fly at night, leading to collisions with buildings, disturbing their internal clocks or interfering with their ability to undertake long-distance migrations.

Group News Group News Group News

Solutions to light pollution are readily available. For instance, more and more cities in the world are taking measures to dim building lights during migration phases in spring and autumn. Best practice guidelines are also being developed under the Convention on Migratory Species to address this growing issue and ensure that action is taken globally to help birds migrate safely and these include:

- Using smart controls (e.g. motion sensors, timer on/off switching);
- Lighting only the intended object or area;
- Using the lighting intensity required for the activity;
- Using non-reflective, dark-coloured surfaces to buildings.

Migratory shorebirds feed both diurnally (daytime) and nocturnally (night time), depending on the tide. By allowing for greater visual foraging, night-time lighting may benefit some species. Where nocturnal roosts are artificially illuminated, however, shorebirds can be forced to move further away from foraging areas, causing them to use up essential energy in travelling further between areas.

SERAG recently had a display in the foyer of the City of Melville Civic Centre Library with information on this year's theme plus more general information about these amazing birds. We are so privileged to have these birds visit our estuary every year and our display included photos of some of this year's visitors.



Common Greenshank



Great Knots



Grey Plover and Great Knot



Photo by M Owen

Two lovely Droseras (Sundews)

By Margaret Owen

Charles Darwin was captivated by *Drosera*. In an 1860 letter he wrote '...at the present moment, I care more about *Drosera* than the origin of all the species in the world.'

Through a series of experiments he confirmed that these plants are carnivorous. Insects are caught and digested by the plant to supply nutrients that are lacking in poor soil.

The two species illustrated here are climbers that may extend to over one metre. The white flowering plant is *Drosera macrantha* (Bridal Rainbow) and the pink one is *Drosera menziesii*.

Flowers of *Drosera* are held above the leaves and sticky traps to avoid trapping potential pollinators.

The bush is beautiful and intriguing.



Photo by M Owen

Did you know?

Carnivorous plants are some 4.5 times more diverse in WA than would be expected in the regional flora and about a quarter of all carnivorous plant species described worldwide, occur in our State.

Over 90% of all carnivorous plants found in WA are endemic to the State, with the vast majority of those occurring in the South West of WA being local endemics with range restrictions and high rates of habitat specialisation.

Drosera represent the largest carnivorous plant genus, with at least 113 species known from the South West of WA of which 96% are endemic.

This unique biodiversity is believed to be an adaptation to the extremely nutrient poor soils, long isolation and significant geological and climatic stability.

Read more in *Carnivorous Plants* by A Cross, in Lambers (Ed) (2019) *A Jewel in the Crown of a Global Biodiversity Hotspot*, published by Kwongan Foundation and the Naturalists' Club.

GELORUP CORRIDOR THREATENED BY BORR

By Sue Chapman



Photo by S Chapman

Gelorup is a small semirural community on the outskirts of Bunbury. A road reserve has been gazetted for over 40 years and has therefore been able to thrive as an area of habitat and bushland, in the face of widespread clearing in adjacent areas. It is home to 5 Matters of National Environmental Significance (MNES)- the Western Ringtail possum, the 3 species of Black Cockatoo, the Black Stripe Minnow, Tuart Woodlands and Banksia Woodlands.

In 2018, it was announced that Federal Funding had been obtained to complete the Bunbury Outer Ring Road and the road reserve suddenly came into the spotlight as the preferred pathway for this new road.

Community groups, including Friends of the Gelorup Corridor Inc, rallied and coordinated 990 responses to the EPA, and almost 100 responses via the EPBC Act, asking for an alternative route through cleared land or utilising existing roads to be considered and outlining the enormous environmental risks and potential damage of the proposal.

Unfortunately, in May 2022 the WA EPA recommended approval as did the Environment Minister, and then in June 2022, the Federal EPBC gave approval, albeit both with significant conditions and requirements for offsets.

Renowned environmentalist and campaigner, Dr Bob Brown, visited the corridor in late July horrified by the hypocrisy of Minister Plibersek in granting approval for this road the week after her famous Press Club speech, where she outlined how her government was going to protect these critical areas of remnant bushland and biodiversity.

For our local Community, August was a particularly tumultuous month. The month began with the horrendous com-

mencement of clearing of the southern-most section of the Gelorup Corridor. A temporary injunction was obtained and stopped clearing for 3 full days in early August but we were unable to stop further clearing via the courts at that time.

On ground actions by WA forest defenders, local activists and concerned community members caused continued delays to clearing activities. Committed photojournalism exposed some terrible scenes of possums being forcibly removed from their homes which received National press coverage. Widespread media profiling and interviews were undertaken with 6PR in Perth, Triple MMM in Perth, ABC TV south west and many other outlets.

A letter of support from local Indigenous elder Wayne Webb was received about the devastating impacts of clearing on our native wildlife and forwarded to the Federal Environment Minister.

Greens Senator Sarah Hanson Young sent an urgent letter to Minister Plibersek on our behalf after strong advocacy from local Greens coordinator Gordon Tayler and Dr Brad Pettitt MLA.

Main Roads has now stopped clearing in Category 1 Habitat and many beautiful areas of habitat and vegetation remain intact throughout the proposed development footprint including Five Mile Brook and surrounds. They have only cleared 11.5 hectares out of the total 71 planned so we are still planning the next stage of our fight.

Please support us by visiting our webpage, <https://www.friendsofgelorup.com/>, contributing to our GoFundMe <https://www.gofundme.com/f/save-gelorup>, and signing the online [petition](#). Further information and pictures of habitat and clearing available on <https://www.facebook.com/southernBORRaction/>



Photo by S Chapman

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

Join the

TREEmendous Biosecurity Blitz

24 September – 24 October 2022

Help to protect our trees by checking them for pests and reporting your observations. Every report helps to increase the likelihood that serious pests and diseases will be detected early, giving better chances to eradication.

To participate, register using this [link](#), download the free [MyPestGuide app](#), check trees in your garden street or local bushland for pests, take photos and send in a report.

For more information, go to [Biosecurity Blitz | Agriculture and Food](#)



To learn more about priority tree pest and diseases, how to participate in the Biosecurity Blitz or how to use the MyPestGuide app, join one of the upcoming workshops:

Workshop 1: 11th October @ Kings Park

Time: 9.30am-12.45pm

Registration link: [Eventbrite](#)

Workshop 2: 14th October @ Kings Park

Time: 10.30am-2.00pm

Registration link: [Eventbrite](#)

Understanding the Environmental Protection Act and How It can Help Save Urban Bushland

Sunday 20th November 1:00 – 4:30 pm at City West Lottery House

Not to be missed! Join us in exploring the ins and outs of the WA *Environmental Protection Act 1986*, including recent changes. Understanding the EP Act will help us make better decisions and submissions - resulting in better outcomes for our bushland.

The workshop will be led by high profile law experts including **Hugh Finn, Curtin University lecturer** and **Tim Macknay, Environmental Defenders Office**.

Further details and how to register will be out soon on the UBC website and facebook page.



Photo by M Owen



Photo by M Owen



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

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
Web site: www.bushlandperth.org.au



Urban Bushland Council WA Inc



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

NEWSLETTER ITEMS

PLEASE SEND CONTRIBUTIONS TO:
ubc@bushlandperth.org.au
Copy deadline - 10 November 2022