

UBC acknowledges the Traditional Owners, the Noongar people, as the spiritual and cultural custodians of this land. Together we care for country.



move the surf park

Stop the waves of destruction

The creation of a surf park in Perth is being facilitated by the WA Labor State Government. An earlier proposal to build on the foreshore of Alfred Cove was rejected due to environmental concerns and public outcry. Unbelievably, the government has proposed another inappropriate site on Prinsep Road in Jandakot.

Clearing for the project will have “significant residual impacts” on the environment, as identified by the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation and Water (DWER), destroying:

- 3.16 ha of Endangered Banksia Woodlands of the Swan Coastal Plain (Threatened Ecologically Community under the *EPBC Act*).
- 2.08 ha of critical foraging habitat for the endangered Carnaby’s Cockatoo and Forest Red-tailed Black Cockatoo (Matters of National Environmental Significance (MNES) under the *EPBC Act*)
- 1.48 ha of a Conservation Category Wetland
- Native vegetation that provides locally significant habitat for quenda
- Suitable habitat for the Grand Spider-orchid (*Caladenia huegelii*), a critically endangered flora species
- Countless other plants and animals, like insects, skinks and rainbow bee-eaters

Jandakot cannot afford to lose any more green space as the community is undergoing a barrage of development – against their wishes and best interests.

The Glen Iris golf course has been closed for housing - wetlands are being filled in and over 700 mature trees will be cleared, including 500 trees which provide food for black cockatoos. Hundreds of hectares of rural residential lots nearby will be turned into concrete urban blocks.

The surf park will require enormous quantities of water when Perth already has water shortages and a drying climate. Aventura, the proponent, has yet to attain a water licence. The proposed offsets are inadequate to compensate for the significant and cumulative environmental impacts of the proposal. Even if restoration of the banksia woodland nearby is successful, it will take 10-15 years before new food sources for black cockatoos become available.

See the next page for timeline and actions you can take.

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Stop the Waves of Destruction cont.

The timeline is urgent

The Joint Development Assessment Panel (JDAP) has given its conditional approval and the WA Planning Commission (WAPC) has a lease agreement in place with Adventuur. A clearing permit has been granted for this private venture by DWER – disregarding the state’s environmental laws and policies. A public appeal is already under investigation by the Appeals Convenor but the Minister for the Environment will hand down his decision on whether or not to allow the clearing by late January.

What’s the Solution?

The Minister for the Environment must not grant this clearing permit. The loss to the community and the environment is too great. Our public assets should not be destroyed for a commercial venture with little to no public benefit, including squandering our precious water resources. The Premier and State Government should relocate the Surf Park. This beautiful Banksia Woodland, home to many birds and animals, is worth far more to the community if left intact. It should be conserved in perpetuity for the benefit of future generations. Stop the waves of destruction.

What is the vision?

Conserve the endangered Banksia Woodland, critical foraging habit for Carnaby’s Black-cockatoos, and a Conservation Category Wetland. Let’s save these public assets from the bulldozer and create a conservation park – a legacy for future generations.

We want the entire Labor Government to know that this is unacceptable so a new online action making it easy to ask your Member of parliament to move the surf park is about to be launched. Watch out for the Stop Waves of Destruction logo on social media. For now please visit the UBC campaign site and sign the petition.

Your voice is needed on key issues

<https://www.bushlandperth.org.au/campaigns/your-voice-needed-now-on-key-issues/>

Heidi Hardisty

1.5. Site map



Figure 1: The area cross-hatched yellow indicates the area authorised to be cleared under the granted clearing permit.

WA’s Cat Act: its opportunities and limitations

The Cat Act regulates the registration and public management of cats. In the light of the impact feral cats are having on wildlife, recent studies show that cats are similarly impactful in urban areas. While a number of local governments are progressing the creation of a local law limiting cats freedoms, the issue of confinement is beyond the boundaries of the current legislation according to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Delegated Legislation. Some local laws have been gazetted based on clearly defined reserves, for example, the Shire of Cubaling. While a review of the Cat Act is due soon, it is not planned before 2025.

Priorities for the Minister of Local Government include creating a statewide register for cats and dogs, which would enable local government responses to roaming cats, as would further assistance to cat havens. Steps toward encouraging behaviour change rather than compliance / enforcement are currently under consideration.

Your local government may consider the local law approach considered above or embark on a program of public awareness. Information on the South Metropolitan Region Councils website may be helpful. The Federal Government have recently sought public input for their [feral cat threat abatement plan](#).

Elizabeth Eaton, UBC





Thank you Volunteers

Friends of Coolbinia bushland celebration cake 2023

Editorial

Welcome to 2024. For the Urban Bushland Council, the start of a new year means that our Annual General Meeting is just around the corner and that it's time to reflect on the past year. In 2023 we celebrated 30 years of advocacy with a memorable event at the Herdsman Lake Discovery Centre. However, this is not the time to be complacent; the challenges to biodiversity and our environment remain as great now as back then in the early 1990s.

After a busy year of participating in public consultation for 44 separate matters we went into the Christmas break with great concerns about the Cook Government's commitment to the environment given their release of the recommendations of the 'Independent Review of WA Environmental Approvals Processes and Procedures'. This review included no public or community consultation and some of its recommendations have worrying consequences for the independence of the EPA and its capacity to protect our biodiversity. These actions will erode environmental protection.

The conservation movement is already concerned that West Australia's environmental laws are not strong enough to protect our environment and that the EPA is not sufficiently resourced to undertake its important work. Streamlining 'green tape' through this review will not improve the protection of our biodiversity.

A current example of disappointing environmental assessment is the Perth Surf Park. UBC is working with The Beiliar Group to halt destruction of a site that includes banksia woodlands, Carnaby's Black Cockatoo foraging habitat and a Conservation Category Wetland in order to build the Perth Surf Park. UBC appealed against the granting of a clearing permit for that site and while we wait for that process to be completed, we have been campaigning to move the surf park and stop the waves of destruction. See our lead article to find ways to contribute to that campaign.

As we enter 2024 and recognising that both Federal and WA Governments go to the polls in 2025, it is clear we need to raise our voices louder and further to protect our precious biodiversity. We need to mobilise our local communities and let our elected officials know how important our biodiversity is and how at risk it is from the actions of this government.

Now is not the time for any Friend's group to fold. We need our Friends groups to be strong and visible in their communities. And we need a strong and vocal UBC. Remember to nominate for a position on the UBC Committee or contribute to one of our Working Groups.

Please stay in touch via UBC's newsletters or subscribe to Conservation Council's (CCWA) newsletter and keep up with news on social media. See you at the UBC Annual General Meeting on Tuesday 5 March 2024 (see page 5 for more information).

Urban Bush Telegraph Copy Deadlines for 2024

Autumn	12th April
Winter	18th July
Spring	18th Oct

Publication two weeks
following

Safeguarding WA's EPA and Environment

Safeguarding WA's EPA and Environment

The conservation movement in WA went into the Christmas break being very concerned about the Cook Government's commitment to the environment given their release of the recommendations of the Independent Review of WA Environmental Approvals Processes and Procedures.

<https://www.wa.gov.au/system/files/2023-12/recommendations-independent-review-of-wa-environmental-approvals-processes-and-procedures.pdf>

This review had no public / community consultation and its recommendations include some with worrying consequences for the independence of the EPA and its capacity to protect our biodiversity. You may have been part of that very noisy email trail of concern.

The Conservation Council of WA (CCWA) is coordinating a conservation sector wide response to this threat to the protection of our environment. To help start the process, UBC hosted a workshop of passionate conservationists in early January, and we have passed on our collective reactions and guidance to CCWA to be included in the campaign. UBC, Wildflower Society (WSWA) and other conservation NGOs have joined the campaign working group.

What's the problem?

- There were significant risks to the independence of EPA and to the *EP Act* being the superior act to lead decision making
- These recommendations remove one of the points for public consultation by proposing to remove appeal rights
- There is no consultation process – these recommendations are being implemented now.

- WA needs stronger laws to protect our environment; the current *EP Act* does not provide sufficient protection. This was captured by Beth Schultz: The biodiversity of WA needs a strong and independent and well-resourced Environmental Protection Authority (EPA).

We need to mobilise our local communities and get messages to our politicians that these recommendations are detrimental to conservation of our biodiversity and that – in fact - we need better laws and better resourcing to protect our precious biodiversity.

The first public event is a rally at the State Parliament on 13 February – the first sitting day of 2024. Watch out for further details in emails and on social media.

We leave you with a quote from Brett Loney's post to the WSWA Facebook group:

Our rights - Right to know. Right to participate. Right to challenge are under threat by the proposed changes to the Environmental Protection Act and changes proposed by the Cook Government to expedite environmental approvals processes. We have to show the Government that Nature Matters and we need to Save the EPA and its processes from erosion by big business. Please consider how YOU (&/or your group) can help mobilise a groundswell to fill the State Parliament forecourt on 13thFeb? It is the first day sitting of Parliament for 2024. It would be a powerful message to deliver to the Government that protection of our environment, social values, community health and cultural heritage are basic community rights. How many people do you think you could mobilise?

Brett Loney, President of the Wildflower Society of Western Australia

UBC Annual General Meeting

CALL FOR 2024 NOMINATIONS

The UBC AGM will be held on Tuesday 5 March 2024 from 6:00 pm for a 6:30 pm start.

All positions are declared vacant each year, so we are now calling for nominations for all 9 positions on the Committee namely: Chairperson, Deputy Chairperson, Treasurer, Secretary and up to 5 Committee members.

Succession planning for future success remains very important for UBC, and we are very keen to see new people nominate for the committee. We ended 2023 with two committee vacancies and with others signalling their intention to NOT seek further nomination.

Mary Gray, long term Chairperson and committee member, has indicated that she will step back from the committee. We thank Mary for all her advocacy and hard work over 30 years plus and hope that she will continue as a source of wisdom in future years.

Please consider whether you or someone you know is interested in adding your voice to protecting our precious bushlands and wetlands through joining the UBC Committee. There is still much to do!

Contact Christine (christine.richardson@bushlandperth.org.au) or Sue (sue.conlan@bushlandperth.org.au) to chat about being part of the UBC Committee.

You will find the nomination forms on the AGM page. Note that nominations must be seconded and signed by a second Member Group.

NOMINATIONS CLOSE 13 FEBRUARY 2024.

The Agenda for the meeting will also be available from our website by 20 February. All paid up Member Groups are eligible to vote. If you wish to appoint someone from another group to act as a Proxy for your Member Group, you can also download that form from our website. Bring your completed Proxy form to the meeting or else email it to ubc@bushlandperth.org.au by 6:00 pm Monday 4 March.

We will open the doors to the Conference Room at 6:00 pm and serve light refreshments. The AGM will start at 6:30 pm and we will hand over to our keynote speakers just after 7 pm. Please register if you are attending in person (scroll to the bottom of our event page). If you can't make it to West Perth, you can join us online via Zoom. Please email ubc@bushlandperth.org.au to request the Zoom link.

All details on our AGM event web page: <https://www.bushlandperth.org.au/event/2024-agm-speaker-topic-safeguarding-was-epa-and-environment/>

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

Richard Yin and Giz Watson are the new President and Vice President of the Conservation Council of WA. They will present on the emerging and urgent campaign to safeguard WA's EPA and Environment. This campaign is being led by CCWA with the collaboration of all the environmental NGOs in Western Australia (see page 4 for more information).



Dr Richard Yin

Richard Yin is the Deputy Chair of Doctors for the Environment Australia (DEA). He has been a major part of the organisation's restructuring, the planning and overseeing of several WA-based campaigns, the implementation of an organisational review and later a cultural review process which has greatly improved the organisation's efficiencies, which in turn increased its reach and impact. Richard is a general practitioner and has owned two practices. Through these, Richard has a good understanding of human resources and workplace culture and the importance of these in settings requiring high performance teams working in high stress environments. Richard was elected President at CCWA's AGM November 2023.



Giz Watson

Giz Watson is a foundation environmental science graduate from Murdoch University. She brings extensive knowledge of the WA environment – marine and terrestrial, as well as demonstrated long history of commitment to environmental and political activism and skills in collaborative planning, teambuilding and strategic planning. As an MP, Giz has held numerous portfolios including biodiversity, urban bushland, marine issues, forests and woodlands, waste management and agriculture. She also drafted, introduced and debated Bills on biodiversity protection, protecting Margaret River from coal mining, cat management and making WA nuclear free. Giz is currently working with WA Forest Alliance helping to achieve significant advances in the conservation of our forests. Giz was elected Vice President at CCWA's AGM November 2023.



Building a Community of Friends Workshop

“If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go further, go together.” (African Proverb). This could be the motto for every bushland Friends group in Perth!!! But how to do it?

Building on lessons in UBC’s 2023 [Volunteer Recruitment Guide](#), Friends from almost 30 different UBC member groups gathered for a skills workshop on Sunday 26/11/2023 to learn more about the subtle art of ‘Community Building for Friends Groups’.

Facilitator Peter Kenyon agreed that the most pressing challenge for community groups across Australia is the ongoing decline in volunteering. In WA alone, the loss of 150,000 volunteers (22%) in the past six years has taken a toll.

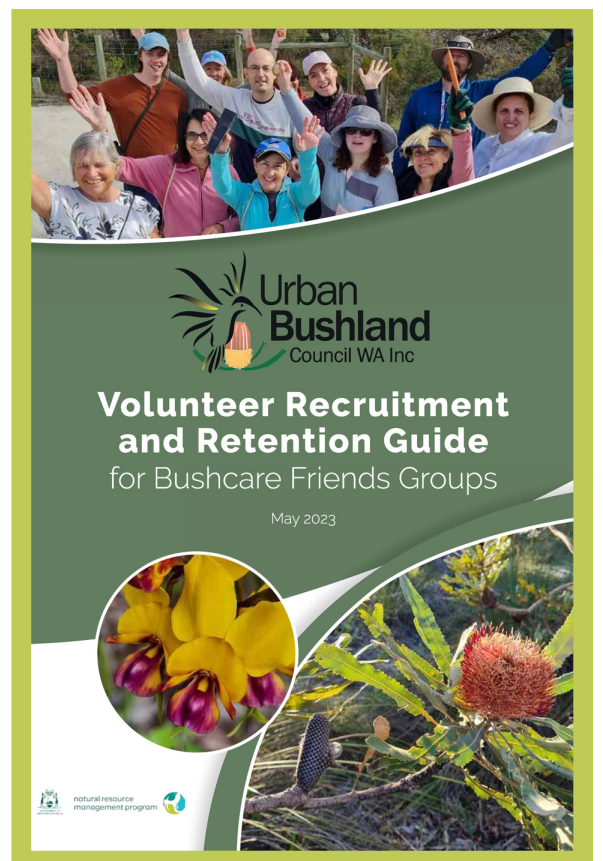
But Peter is convinced the only way to develop communities is from the inside out. Through the practical process of ‘asset mapping’, we can identify and harness these ‘gifts’ and individual strengths for the good of the group. He also shared a range of tips on how to boost morale through.... what else? FUN!

One attendee declared it was *the best \$20 I have ever spent! I am now enthused to ask newcomers what they do, what are their passions and how do they think they may help from the big list of things we need done.*

Thanks to our sponsors [The Wettenhall Environment Trust](#) and to Peter Kenyon (OAM) of the [Bank of Ideas](#) for making this informative day possible.

The UBC’s next skills workshop for members will be on the topic of ‘Advocacy’. A date and details will be announced soon.

Vicki Caulfield, UBC





Carnaby's on Cookie Trough, Yanchep

Keep the Carnaby's Flying- Ngoolarks Forever

It is hard to believe that the clearing of endangered banksia woodland in Perth is still allowed. It is more urgent than ever to promote conservation and help save our endangered Carnaby's Black-cockatoos. That's why projects like 'Keep the Carnaby's Flying- Ngoolarks Forever', headed by Murdoch University (MU) with multiple partners, are so important.

The first year of the project has been highly successful. MU has been working with four local government associations, (City of Cockburn, City of Wanneroo, Shire of Serpentine-Jarrahdale and City of Melville), environmental NGOs and Aboriginal organisations to engage the community and implement various projects that address threats to the birds and provide food sources and water. Each LGA have implemented their own plantings of cockatoo foraging trees and shrubs, including banksias, jarrahs, marris and macadamia. Tree guards are in place as needed. Most trees survived the dry November. LGAs are taking on the cost of watering over the summer.

Water is also vital for the Ngoolarks survival, since over 80% of Perth's wetlands have been cleared. Each LGA is installing at least one 'cookie trough', an elevated watering station, a safe distance from the road. Fresh water is provided each day to maintain hygiene and prevent the spread of disease.

Using their own black cockatoo tracking data, MU has provided detailed and unique Conservation Action Plans (CAP) to each LGA. CAPs provide guidance on the bird's cultural significance and how to manage threats to Ngoolarks including: loss of habitat, lack of fresh drinking water, vehicle strike, Carnaby's Hindlimb Paralysis Syndrome, raven attack, shooting, and climate change.

Cultural engagement activities are a major focus of the project. Barb Hostalek held two yarning circles with Aboriginal elders and members from the Winjan Aboriginal Corporation Board. They evaluated the project and discussed their continued participation and support, adding guidance and their stories to the Keep the Carnaby's Flying website.

This year, 4 new councils will participate: City of Mandurah, City of Kwinana, Town of Cambridge, and City of Swan. Plant orders are in place for the 2024 planting season and most sites for cookie troughs have been chosen.

A big focus will be on promoting and building the [Keep the Carnaby's Flying website](#). Radio and TV opportunities are being investigated. There are plans to make short videos for the website – which will be a long-lasting hub to raise awareness and provide technical and educational information – encouraging everyone to help save the birds. School resources that fit into the curriculum are being developed, making it easy for teachers to incorporate the information into their lessons.

The "Keep Carnaby's Flying – Ngoolarks Forever" program is supported with funding by Lotterywest. Partners include: the Urban Bushland Council, Winjan Aboriginal Corporation, SERCUL, Perth NRM and Birdlife Australia. Check out the [Keep Carnaby's Flying: Ngoolarks Forever website](#) for more info.

Heidi Hardisty, KCF



FREE STICKERS are available-Give to your friends and family and help promote the website and save Ngoolarks. Contact UBC to get your stickers or grab some at UBC's AGM in March.

Group News



Friends of Melon Hill

The highlight of our year was planting seedlings in Lot 150, Sayer Street Swanbourne. The Lot was cleared in 2012 after an old asbestos clad council-owned building was demolished. The land had lost all its topsoil and lay bare for over a decade. During that time we appealed to council that the site, that was surrounded on three sides by bushland, ought to follow recommendations outlined in our very first Management Plan for Allen Park. This argued that the site be incorporated into Allen Park bushland as it was an important section of the corridor linking Allen Park with the north-eastern precinct (known as the Boobook Sector).

Aspirations were realised when on the 10th June, volunteers spent a morning planting over 230 seedlings on Lot 150 and within the Boobook Sector. To celebrate this important milestone, we had morning tea at the point where Sayer Street cuts through the A Class Reserve on an east/west axis. Lot 139, on the south side of Sayer Street was also planted with banksias including *Banksia menziesii*, *Banksia prionotes* and *Hakea prostrata*. In the years to come these should provide an abundance of nectar for honeyeaters and seeds for foraging birds including Red-tailed and Carnaby's cockatoos that frequent these areas. As the areas are quite exposed, a watering regime has begun and will continue over the months ahead.



Sayer Street morning tea after planting



Got a Group News Item?

Email your text of up to 400 words and a couple of original photos to:

ubc@bushlandperth.org.au



Planting Day Coolbinia Primary Students

Friends of Coolbinia Bushland

Welcome to Birak, the season of the Young. We are heading into the first summer, but the forecast from the BOM is for a seriously hotter and drier summer season with increased fire risk. With climate change we have witnessed our annual rainfall for Perth seriously deplete over the decades, our Springs getting shorter and drier, and summers are longer and hotter too. Caring for country has never been so important. The Friends have worked tirelessly looking after the bushland over the last year and we have achieved a great many things.

- A 2022-23 Stronger Communities grant via Patrick Gorman MP enabled the part refurbishment of the limestone track. It looks and feels fantastic underfoot!
- Working with the students of Coolbinia Primary School we managed to plant 400 trees in May so they enjoyed good winter rains to help them establish. Our gratitude and thanks to the generosity of the Queens Jubilee Tree Canopy grant for their funding of this project.
- Hand weeding the bushland for perennial Veldt grass, and we conducted several weeding workshops for community to learn about gladioli, freesias, bridal creeper and other bushland weeds. These 4 workshops were facilitated by the 2023 Volunteer Grant generously provided by Patrick Gorman MP.
- Our annual Wildflower Event was held in September and was well attended by local community. This was supported by the Volunteer Grant also.
- Dr Elaine Lewis and Coolbinia Primary School were successful in obtaining a City of Stirling Living Green grant and were able to purchase a Bird Waterer for the bushland. The Friends were able to contribute to the installation costs and Friend David Mariotti assisted with the irrigation and plumbing aspects. What a fantastic asset for our bushland and birdies!!
- A total of 931.5 volunteer hours. This is just amazing and terrific! 641 of those hours were spent on ground, weeding, watering and planting.

Our group has grown!! We welcomed several new volunteers to our group and already they have helped so much with our weeding and watering efforts, and with the behind-the-scenes administration! Welcome Jenni, Gareth, Marie, Elise, Aiden, and Andrew!! How lucky are we?!!

We have more news for exciting things happening next year, so watch this space for further announcements in 2024! Thank you to all our fabulous Volunteers, for their incredible commitment to our bushland. Thank you also to Principal Paul Westcott, Dr. Elaine Lewis and the staff and students of Coolbinia Primary School for their support.

We wish you all a very safe, healthy, and Merry Christmas, and look forward to a kind and stress-free New Year in 2024!

Tracy Evans, *Co-convenor Friends of Coolbinia Bushland*





Chenille honey myrtle (*Melaleuca hueglinii*)

Friends of Mosman Park

Just recently, [Honey myrtle shrubland on limestone ridges of the Swan Coastal Plain Bioregion](#) has been listed as critically endangered under the Federal EPBC Act and by the State Government. The distribution of Honey myrtle shrubland exactly matches the sprawling metropolis of Perth, from just north of Lancelin to Bunbury, restricted to coastal limestone ridges. It is threatened by clearing and development.

So DBCA were very excited to find that Mosman Park still has remnants. These are in Minim Cove Park, in two locations on Monument Hill and much of Buckland Hill and the weed infested Buckland Hillock between Stirling Highway and the railway line. We have been collecting under Town of Mosman Park's license, seeds from shrubs at the Hillock that have been lost to greater Mosman Park. There are plants so rare on both the hillock and Monument Hill that we cannot grow them. We can carefully weed around them though!



Yellow Leschenaultia flowering in Minim Cove Park

We are hoping that the listing of Honey myrtle shrubland as critically endangered may help with fencing as there has been daily bike riding through them. We would prefer they trampled the weeds on the fire access tracks but, no, they have to ride over the few remnant plants we have left. A quenda has been seen using the prunings from Brazilian Pepper for refuge from uncontained pet cats in the Honey myrtle Shrubland.

The Water Corporation WA also have infrastructure in this critically endangered shrubland. They now have Environmental officers employed to advise on care of the surrounding native vegetation where their infrastructure is located. Here's hoping we can care for remaining Honey myrtle shrubland found on coastal limestone.



Minim Cove Park flowers profusely post fire 2008

Sue Conlan, *Friends of Mosman Park Bushland*

Colma Keating inducted into WA Landcare Hall of Fame

On the 8th December 2023, UBC's Colma Keating was one of 12 inaugural inductees into the WA Landcare's Hall of Fame. This was an opportunity to acknowledge the pioneering work over many decades by these dedicated people. Colma was presented with her certificate by the Chair of the National Landcare Network board, Dr Louise Duxbury. Other inductees well known to urban bush carers included Pat Hart, Jan Star and Rachel Siewert .

The WA Landcare citation for Colma follows:

After growing up in WA's wheatbelt and Pilbara regions, Colma studied Science at UWA in the late 1970s, early 1980s, with majors in Botany and Geography and became involved in environmental groups. This included honorary secretary of the WA Conservation Council and Councillor for the Australian Conservation Foundation. Early campaigns included Shark Bay World Heritage, Lesueur National Park, Trigg Dunes.

In 1988, by day Colma began working for the WA Department of Agriculture on landcare and coastal programs, by night she started taking on roles representing environment interests on government committees.

After a 'Landcare Liaison' stint in Minister Ernie Bridge's office and a secondment to Canberra to work on Landcare Australia's business plan, Colma returned to Perth in 1993. She focused her volunteer efforts on government liaison and skills development activities that were needed in the Conservation Council, playing a pivotal role in establishing "Environment Matters" that this year celebrates its 21st Birthday of sharing and extending knowledge and understanding – whilst networking.

She has worked for government agencies and Not For Profits (including Greening WA, Landcare Australia and the WA Wildflower Society) conducting botanical surveys, community engagement, facilitation, sponsorship and training and continues to have an unwavering commitment to environmental organisations.

Colma is a very active contributor to the Urban Bushland Council, served on the WA Landcare Network Committee 2014-2016 and for over 30 years has been an energetic member of her local urban landcare group, Canning River Residents Environment Protection Association.

The tag 'a walking, talking, sharing mind-map' still captures Colma's driving passion and contribution to supporting and connecting people and knowledge – in community led conservation and rehabilitation.



Reproduced with permission from the WA Landcare website.



Please visit WA Landcare to read about the other inaugural inductees:

WA Landcare Hall of Fame

Position Wanted: Volunteer Newsletter Editor

Are you passionate about urban bush conservation and have a knack with documents? UBC is looking for someone to help take their communications forward by compiling the quarterly Urban Bush Telegraph. Through distribution to its member groups and individual members the Urban Bush Telegraph is available to more than 2000 people. The newsletter editor is an important role for bushland advocacy. The UBC committee is involved in planning and producing the UBT in a collaborative team with the editor. Skill using Publisher, Canva or Adobe would be welcome but not essential. Interested? Have an obligation free chat to Christine Richardson (ubc@bushlandperth.org.au).

Weeds!



Perennial Veldt Grass

Perennial Veldt Grass (*Erharta calycina*) was introduced from Southern Africa as a drought tolerant fodder. It forms tufts of grass to 70cms that bulk up quickly with rain and red coloured drooping seed laden-panicles that extend further away from the mother plant, dropping seeds continuously. Seed panicles turn white when empty. It germinates readily, outcompeting natives.

It is one of the most difficult grassy weeds to eradicate and is a major threat to the conservation values of Banksia woodlands on sandy soils north and south of Perth. It is difficult to see the smaller drought resistant, leafless, reddish plants under low shrubs. Its tall dry summer habit can fuel fires and it must be strategically removed where fires may start. It becomes profuse after fire and must be sprayed soon after the rainy season promotes fresh wider leaf growth. Its fine, leafless summer stem habit is resistant to herbicide spray. It lowers pH of the soil, increases hydrophobicity and increases nutrient availability to favour weed promotion over natives. It must be strategically removed in high conservation value areas.

Management

Do not

- slash as seeds will spray further,
- plant prickly plants near by as they protect it from weeding.

Do

- Herbicide treat non-biodiverse areas after Autumn rain brings on new growth and before flowering.
- Herbicide treat areas before planting as difficult to remove once plantings grow up.
- Remove plants if seeding or place in one spot if you will return to weed the following years.
- Use an inexpensive pointed end pruning saw (or bread knife) to reach this weed under shrubs rather than put your hand where you cannot see what else is under the shrub. The teeth of the saw grab the roots with minimum disturbance to the soil. Large tufts can be sawn below ground. Pruning saws allow you to reach greater area of weeds without getting up and down. This saw may not be suitable for use in ground covers of *Banksias* or *Kennedia prostrata*.

Reference: Florabase Florabase

<https://florabase.dbca.wa.gov.au/browse/profile/347>

Urban Bushland Council

<https://www.bushlandperth.org.au/weeds/perennial-veldt-grass/>

Sue Conlan, *Friends of Mosman Park*.

Weeds!



Cockie's Tongues in flower at Porteous Park

Weed Management for Fire Control

Porteous Park In Sorrento is a relatively small, but very biodiverse, remnant of *Banksia* woodland near where I live. The park is 2.1ha in area with 1.61 ha of bushland in very good condition. There is a great variety of flora and fauna there. Rainbow Bee-Eaters nest there each year and Carnaby's Black Cockatoos are frequent visitors. Harman Park in Sorrento is another similar small remnant of bushland (with many different species even though it is less than a kilometre away) with its own friends group to help maintain it.

Before we started the "Friends of Porteous Park" in 2002, all (or sections) of it were burnt five years in succession, and the bushland was becoming increasingly degraded. So our friends group was formed and the first job was to reduce the density of weedy grass species as quickly as possible (in particular, perennial veldt grass). Initially grass selective herbicide was applied by the City of Joondalup but within a couple of years we transitioned mainly to manual weeding, removing as much as we can before seed shed. Grass selective herbicide was applied after a couple of our recent wet winters, but was not successful, so manual weeding has proved to be the most effective method. Prior to seed set, weeds are cut out or pulled out and left in-situ, but after seed set, they are bagged. In addition to veldt grass, rye, barley, brome and vulpia grasses and more recently, what we call "blue grass" (*Ehrharta brevifolia*) have to be removed manually too – no selective herbicide option for bushland seems to be available.

We are removing other invasive weed species in the bushland as well – when weeding, in a single pass, multiple weed species (and any litter) are removed.

The friends group has liaised with the City to spot spray out the veldt grass (and do a barrier spray) in the "dry park" turf as it was seeding into the adjacent bushland.

To reduce the fire risk, the City (with friends group help) removes some dead *Banksia sessilis* from the bushland each year. New native plants self seed where they have been removed. The net affect of all this work is the condition of the bushland has increased dramatically and there has **not been a single substantial fire**, even though on a few occasions over the last decade vandals have attempted to start a blaze. This has allowed this *Banksia* woodland to become a great haven for many native bird species, which doesn't seem to happen until it reaches a mature (unburnt) state.

Mike Norman, *Friends of Porteous Park*



Perennial veldt clump

Contact UBC



City West Lotteries House,
2 Delhi Street West Perth 6005



www.bushlandperth.org.au



9420 7207



UrbanBushlandCouncil



ubc@bushlandperth.org.au



@UrbanBushlandWA

Join Up or Renew 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 electronic copies of the “Urban Bush Telegraph”.

To join as a new member please visit our **website members area**.

Alternatively send your name, address and cheque to: Treasurer, Urban Bushland Council WA Inc, City West Lotteries House, 2 Delhi West Perth WA 6005

Renewals

You should have received a New Year’s Day email with details of how to renew your membership.

Contribute to this Newsletter

We need your new content for the Urban Bush Telegraph. Send us your feature article of less than 600 words or Group News item of interest to the broader UBC audience (around 400 words) along with your original photos to:

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Copy deadline for the Autumn issue – 12th April 2024