

## **WHY CRAIGIE BUSHLAND WORKS!**

**Urban Bushland Council Guided Walk 17<sup>th</sup> August 2025**

**Whitfords Avenue, entrance behind the Craigie Leisure Centre.**



Fox/cat and dog fenced Craigie Bushland is a magnificent example of how a bushland can survive, regenerate and thrive in a climate of two long hot dry years and falling groundwater levels. It demonstrates that if stresses are removed, nature can retake control. The only evidence of fires were scars on the very old trees. The bushland had an appearance of an open woodland with an intact canopy cover. Healthy grass tree skirts (*Xanthorrhoea preissii*) provide habitat for resting quenda and hibernating bobtails. Minimal paths allow greater undisturbed areas for wildlife great and small to flourish and build bushland resilience. Varieties of Banksia, fruiting Quandong trees, ancient Xanthorrhoea, plus large branches dropped by storm and wind damage create the next layer for regeneration.

We are in debt to those who advocated decades ago to keep enough bushland at Craigie to sustain kangaroos. In this process, it's the 100 quenda that are the heroes here, turning over 2 ton of leaf litter a year, redistributing mycorrhizal fungi that extend the plant roots to allow sharing of nutrients and water when needed. It appears the quendas have significantly reduced bulbous weeds such as yellow lachenalia, oxalis, Guildford grass and black flag. Quenda, once given fence protection, work 24/7 to improve our degraded bushland.

Friends of Bushland groups are encouraged to visit the Craigie bushland to gauge the woodland composition of Marri, Jarrah and Tuart with Banksias and the surrounding understorey as a guide in their own local restoration projects.

The proximity of the 3 tree giants is a great way to study the difference between Marri, Jarrah and Tuart. The tessellated bark of the Marri along with its twisted branches and large honky

nuts are a contrast to the longer segmented bark of the Jarrah. As we walked closer to the coast, the Tuarts dominated, with their finer bark, and low branches to steady themselves in the high winds.



Marri, Jarrah and Tuart

Jarrah because of its slow growth pattern is not used for street tree plantings making it extremely critical to save remnants such as Craigie Bushland. What we have remaining on the Swan Coastal Plain needs protecting.

Methods of excluding key wildlife predators of fox, cat and dog included, fencing with a gated entrance at the beginning of Craigie bushland, with defined paths you are surrounded by large areas left undisturbed. The fenced area being the major contributor to the Bushland's regeneration. Consequently, the wider community can see the results, understand and accept the value of this type of fence proofing where the **main objectives** are realised - transformation of land to a functioning ecosystem which will sustain itself for generations to come. These are definite signs of the long-term ability to regenerate with a thriving eco-system. The proof is there to witness, study and develop similar objectives to give remaining fragments of bush a future.

Urban Bushland Council acknowledges the City of Joondalup, Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions and the foresight and hard work by volunteers, ensuring the health, diversity and productivity of the environment is maintained and enhanced for the benefit and enjoyment of future generations. Being guided by experts who have acquired a lifetime of knowledge makes for an invaluable and inspirational walk. Thank you.

