

## LFW NEWS



Year 11 biology students, with teacher Mrs Donna Birch. Photo: R. McElroy

### Warwick SHS Bushland

By Robyn McElroy

**W**ARWICK Senior High School students are justly proud of their school bushland – a piece of banksia woodland in remarkably good condition.

In 1997 the school's bushland was registered as *Land for Wildlife* to help preserve this very important corridor for wildlife between Warwick Open Space. A "Friends" group had previously been set up through the school's P&C Assn. because of concern over increasing weed invasion and fire risk. Our aim is to maintain and as much as possible improve the condition of the bushland so that it remains a natural tuart/jarrah/banksia woodland. Our group has been busy hand weeding, removing rubbish, collecting seeds and controlling rabbits - among other things. The fence in the photo was one such project, to deter cyclists from short-cutting through the bush. It was erected with the aid of a grant from the Gordon Reid Foundation for Conservation and funds from the P&C and the school. Another grant – this time from the Minister for the Environment's 'Community

Conservation Grants' will pay for a contractor to spray the bush with Fusilade® to control veld grass and wild oats. This is very important, not just for bush regeneration, but to reduce the fire hazard.

On 18th Sept Alinta Gas/Ecoplan/Australian Trust for Conservation will sponsor a 'Bushland Care Workday', when ATCV volunteers will come to help the Friends group with weeds such as Cape tulip and Paterson's curse, which don't respond to Fusilade®. Would any *Land for Wildlifers* care to join us on that day – you'd be very welcome!

As well as all this, the group with help from Karen Clarke is setting up a herbarium and has produced notes towards preparation of a management plan.

With enthusiasm such as this, Warwick High School bushland will continue to be an important piece of urban bushland and an educational resource for generations to come.

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