

## Herdsman Bird Banding project clocks up 15 years

By Bill Rutherford

**For the past 15 years, a dedicated group of bird banders has been working away at Herdsman Lake on what is arguably the most active banding project in the Perth metropolitan area. Over that time, almost 20,000 birds representing 87 different species have been banded by the Herdsman Lake Bird Banding Group (Table 1). The group is well known among the birding and banding community in WA, Australia and overseas, with the data collected feeding into the Australian Bird and Bat Banding Survey (ABBBS).**

Silveways have been the most banded species, with 7152 individuals banded, followed by brown honeyeaters (1488 banded) and western gerygone (837). The western gerygone and silveway also take the top two spots for oldest birds banded, with a western gerygone originally banded in June 2005 recaptured more than 11 years later in July 2016, making it the longest elapsed time between original banding and recapture of any western gerygone bird recorded in the ABBBS. A silveway banded in November 2006 was recaptured almost nine years later in October 2015.

### Diverse bandings

More unusual and vagrant species are also encountered during the project. Rainbow bee-eaters traditionally arrive from northern Australia and south-east Asia in the first week of October and leave in late March. They nest on the mound near Settler's Cottage and numbers vary from year to year with 15 to 20 pairs observed at its peak in 2007. The shining bronze cuckoo also arrives from northern Australia and south-east Asia as early as July to coincide



*In the past 15 years, the western gerygone has been one of the most frequently caught species at Herdsman Lake. Photo – Herdsman Bird Banding Group.*

with the breeding season of its hosts - the yellow-rumped thornbill, western gerygone and other small passerines. They are usually gone by the New Year.

In 2013, a rare striated heron was banded - a seldom-observed visitor from the Pilbara. Shorebirds migrating to east Asia and Siberia are observed in very small numbers and rarely encountered. In the summer of 2010-11, the Herdsman group deployed mist nets on exposed sandbanks across from Maurice Hamer Park to target these species, but fewer than 20 were banded.

Two species of fairy-wren – splendid fairy-wren and variegated fairy-wren – are consistently observed and sometimes encountered, albeit in small numbers. These were rarely seen in the latter part of the 20th century.

### Training ground

Many banders have become involved in the project over the years, including beginners wishing to gain some experience and those finishing off their training in order to obtain an 'A' Class banding licence. Ten 'A' class licences have been granted under the program, representing a new generation of banders. It is pleasing to see their continued involvement in the Herdsman project, as well as providing guidance and assistance to new trainees. Several of these have taken on other projects at Bold Park, Rockingham and Rottne Island and are active in other banding studies.

**Contact:** Bill Rutherford, Herdsman Lake Bird Banding Group, by [email](#).

Issue 99

**Spring** 2016

*Time of Djilba and Kambarang in the Nyoongar calendar.*

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**Table 1. Summary of Herdsman Bird Banding project results.**

All Species	2002-2016	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012
New birds	15,254	1,155	1,001	1,321	897	1,422
Recoveries	3,843	423	333	476	520	509
All birds	19,097	1,578	1,334	1,797	1,417	1,931
Recovery rate	20.1%	26.8%	24.9%	26.5%	36.7%	26.3%
Species	87	43	45	44	47	47

# Making progress at Talbot Road Bushland By Grazyna Paczkowska

The Talbot Road Bushland, Bush Forever Site 306, located in Swan View/Stratton is a large area of remnant vegetation comprising several tenures: Class A Nature Reserve managed by the Department of Parks and Wildlife, Unallocated Crown Land 11314, and Crown Reserve 6955 vested in Metropolitan Cemeteries Board. The bushland contains significant environmental values including important fauna habitat, conservation listed flora and occurrences of two threatened ecological communities. It is also an important spiritual dreaming place for the Nyoongar people.

Weeds are one of the major threats to this urban bushland. Over the years the Friends group and Parks and Wildlife, with the assistance of the City of Swan, have been controlling weeds at the nature reserve. Infestations of some weeds, such as African lovegrass, veldt grass and watsonia, have been greatly reduced.

This year we successfully obtained a Perth NRM Living Landscapes Program grant to undertake a comprehensive three year weed management program within the entire Talbot Road Bushland. This will enable weed control activities to be extended from the nature reserve (71ha, managed by Parks and Wildlife) to include 10ha of adjoining



unallocated Crown Land (vested in the Department of Lands), and 16ha of Crown Reserve 6955. Managing weeds across tenures should result in more effective weed control over the entire site.

Little or no weed control has been carried out in the additional areas and as there was no information on weed distribution, Urban Nature, with the help of Parks and Wildlife Perth Hills District staff, mapped the more serious weeds within the area. The mapping data will provide baseline information on the weed distribution and set up priorities for control work in the reserves. It will also provide a measure of the effectiveness of the weed management program over time.



Controlling weeds such as lovegrass at Talbot Road has enabled the bush to flourish. Photos – Kate Brown.

## Urban Nature Update By Rebecca Ong

This issue sees Jill Griffiths return as editor with me taking a part-time role in Urban Nature, while Julia Cullity takes a much-deserved break. Having worked with Urban Nature back in 2008, it is wonderful to be part of the team again. Working four days a week, I split my time between Bushland News, assessing land use planning proposals, finalising the Banksia Restoration Grants program, and helping community groups with on-ground works and advice where I can. I've loved reading all your articles and am inspired by the quality and sheer amount of hard work being put in to so many projects to improve our bushland throughout the greater metro region.

You'll notice a bit of a *Phytophthora* dieback flavour to this issue, which is largely due to the fact that there is so much good work being done in this important area. It's timely for all of us to remember relevant hygiene practices when working in bushland, given the serious and insidious nature this threat poses. But there are also a range of other stories, which I'm sure you'll find interesting.

With spring well and truly sprung the bush is looking fabulous, festooned with wildflowers. I hope you manage to get out and simply enjoy it, as well as going about your many activities to enhance and manage our bushland.

## Contacts

### Urban Nature office

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Current and archived issues of *Bushland News* are available at [www.dpaw.wa.gov.au/bushlandnews](http://www.dpaw.wa.gov.au/bushlandnews).

## Summer Bushland News

Summer *Bushland News* contributions should be sent to [Urban Nature](#) by **Thursday 24 November 2016**. *Bushland News* seeks original contributions. If your submission has been or may be published elsewhere please let us know.

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## 2016 Ringtail Tally

By Breanne Skennar, GeoCatch

Results from the first Western Ringtail Possum Tally are now in after a great effort from more than 45 residents in the South West. The Geopraphe Catchment was the primary focus area with 149 individual ringtails recorded from more than 500 sightings. Surveys were completed at over 40 sites, providing a good base for repeat surveys to look at future population trends for this endangered species. The Western Ringtail Action Group, GeoCatch, and Parks and Wildlife would like to thank all who took part in this citizen science event.

**Contact:** Dr Geoff Barrett, Parks and Wildlife by [email](#).



The Ringtail Tally recorded 149 individual ringtail possums. Photo – Russell Hyde Photography.

## Western Australian Aboriginal Journey Ways

By Dr Francesca Robertson

Many main roads in WA are built on journey ways that were walked by Aboriginal people for tens of thousands of years. They were walked as songlines, trade routes and seasonal runs. Songlines are living narratives, usually a journey made by one of the spiritual ancestors. Songlines have layers of meaning revealed slowly over a lifetime. Trade routes are movements made by larger groups travelling to traditional gathering places for trading, lore and ceremony. Runs are the movements of family groups taking particular routes enabling them to enjoy the benefits of the six seasons.

The WA Aboriginal Journey Ways project is a collaboration between Kurongkurl Katitjin, Edith Cowan University, and Main Roads Western Australia. The aim is to research and articulate traditional cultural meanings of selected Aboriginal journey ways that are aligned with modern main roads and bridges. A small research team, including Aboriginal researchers, is visiting custodial Elders across the State collecting stories that will be collated and published.

Stage 1, which runs through 2016, focuses on Nyoongar territory. Stage 2 will focus on the Goldfields, Gascoyne, Midwest and Pilbara, and Stage 3 will focus on the Kimberley region.

**Contact:** Dr Francesca Robertson, Edith Cowan University, by [email](#)

## Funding opportunities

### Regional Grants Scheme and Community Chest Fund grants

The latest round of Regional Grants Scheme (RGS) and Community Chest Fund (CCF) grants opened 1 August 2016. These grant programs provide voluntary organisations, educational institutions and community organisations with grants of up to \$50,000 for CCF and between \$50,001 and \$300,000 for RGS. [More information](#).

### Department of Local Government and Communities Youth Activities

Grants of up to \$5,000 are available for community organisations and local governments to develop projects that encourage young people (aged 12-25) to get involved in innovative and challenging community projects and activities. Applications close 31 December 2017. [Details](#).

### BankWest Easy Grants

Bankwest has an ongoing grant scheme open where grants are awarded on the basis of a vote. The first 20 eligible applications received each month are put to a public vote and the three groups with the most votes each receive \$1000. [Details](#).

### Ian Potter Foundation Grants

Expressions of Interest for the next round of funding in the Ian Potter Foundation Grants open on 7 November and close 9 December 2016. Large grants of \$100,000 or more are available to support landscape-scale biodiversity and sustainability programs. Small grants of up to \$20,000 are also available to fund awareness-raising projects. [Details](#).

### LotteryWest Grants

LotteryWest has funding available for trails and also for conservation and natural heritage. [Details](#).

## Keep up-to-date with Understorey

Understorey, a weekly Perth-based mini-documentary focusing on the environment, discusses topical public policy issues, local bushland stories and news from farther afield, such as the Indigenous Ranger photography awards and the Bush Capital natural history exhibition in Canberra. To listen to Understorey, tune in every Wednesday at 11.30am on RTRFM 92.1, the Sound Alternative. Programs are available [online](#) to stream and share. Understorey is always looking for stories of local bushland interest.

**Contact:** [Elizabeth PO'](#) and [Adrian Glamorgan](#) or go to the Yarnwaves Facebook page to message.

# Fire, fences and weeds

## Adaptive management in a significant banksia/tuart woodland

By Kate Brown

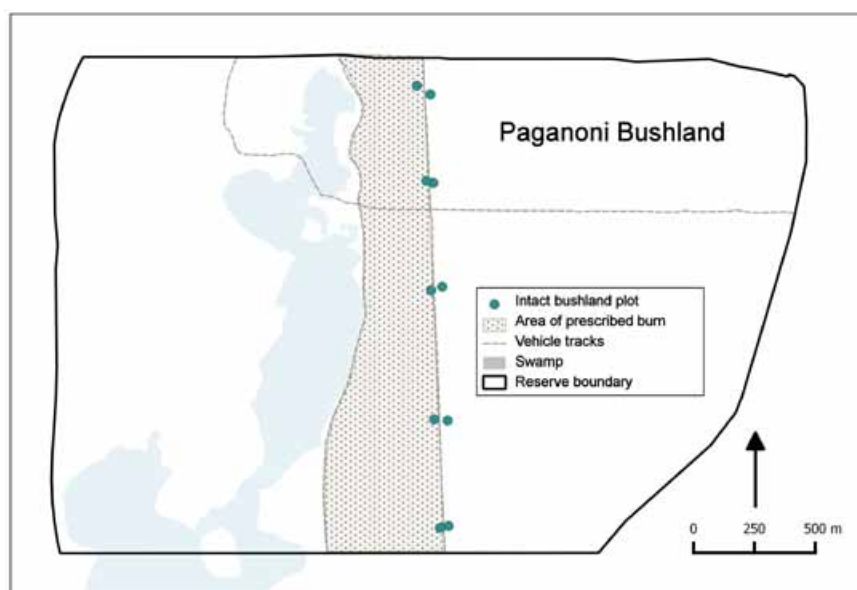
**Paganoni Reserve, a remnant of banksia/tuart (*Eucalyptus gomphocephala*) woodland on the southern Swan Coastal Plain, had been unburnt for more than 30 years until Parks and Wildlife conducted an autumn prescribed burn in part of the reserve.**

Immediately prior to the prescribed burn, the department established field experiments in about-to-be-burnt and unburnt vegetation. Three years post-burn changes in species richness and cover were measured, and the impacts of marsupial herbivore exclusion on vegetation recovery and the effectiveness of post-fire weed management quantified. Specifically questions posed included;

- How do native and weed species richness and cover change in the banksia/tuart woodland at Paganoni Swamp following an autumn prescribed burn?
- Does an autumn prescribed burn in the banksia/tuart woodland facilitate weed invasion?
- Can established weed management techniques protect the banksia/tuart woodland from increasing weed dominance in the post fire environment?
- What are the impacts of excluding grazing by western grey kangaroo on native vegetation cover and on establishment of invasive species post-fire?

### Methods

Paganoni Reserve is 100km south of Perth and protects a 700ha remnant of banksia/eucalypt woodland in very good condition. The overstorey species in the woodlands at the study site were predominantly firewood banksia (*Banksia menziesii*) with scattered tuart. The understorey was dominated by shrubs, including yellow buttercups (*Hibbertia hypericoides*) and hairy yellow pea (*Gompholobium tomentosum*), with a rich herbaceous flora. In 2008, following a major freeway extension on the western boundary, the reserve was fenced on three sides. For the resident population of western grey kangaroo, connectivity to the surrounding landscape was significantly reduced.



Location of prescribed burn and treatment plots, Paganoni Reserve.



The prescribed burn took place in Autumn 2011 and covered 70 hectares of banksia woodland. Photo – Kate Brown.

While not quantified, this appears to have resulted in increased population densities within the reserve.

Five paired replicate sites were established in the banksia/tuart woodland across the designated burn boundary in unburnt and about-to-be-burnt vegetation. These were established prior to the prescribed burn to ensure homogeneity across sites. Within each paired replicate (burnt and unburnt) site, three different 5m x 5m treatment plots were established; herbivore exclusion (fenced), weed management and control (no treatment). The prescribed burn took place in late May 2011.

Data was collected in spring (October) 2013, two years and five months after the prescribed burn. The point intercept method was used to measure cover of all native and introduced species that occurred in each 5m x 5m plot.

## Fire, fences and weeds continued...

### Results

- Average cover of weeds across burnt plots was 40.8 per cent, significantly higher than in unburnt plots at 23.3 per cent. The species that contributed to the increased cover in the burnt sites were flat weed (*Hypochaeris glabra*), ursinia (*Ursinia anthemoides*) and annual veldt grass (*Ehrharta calycina*). Pigface (*Carpobrotus edulis*), a serious weed of tuart woodland, was present in 60 per cent of burnt sites and was totally absent from unburnt sites.
- Fire had a significant effect on native species composition and cover. The shrub rose banjine (*Pimelea rosea*) only occurred in burnt sites and two other shrubs, hairy yellow pea and native wisteria (*Hardenbergia comptoniana*) were much more abundant in the burnt sites. Among the geophytes, blue squill (*Chamaescilla corymbosa*) and pale grass-lily (*Caesia micrantha*) had lower cover in burnt sites while *Dichopogon capillipes* was higher.
- Weed management did not significantly change overall weed cover but the targeted weed control program did result in lower cover of weedy annual grasses and of pigface in treatment sites. Annual herbs not targeted for control, including pink velvet (*Petrorhagia velutina*), ursinia and flatweed, had similar levels of cover in both weed management and control treatments.
- Average cover of shrubs, perennial grasses and geophytes was significantly higher in fenced sites. The shrubs most severely impacted by grazing were post-fire re-seeders, hairy yellow pea and native wisteria, both almost totally absent outside the herbivore exclusions. Post-fire grazing also reduced cover of geophytes, particularly *D. capillipes*.

### Management Implications

- The study indicates that the most serious changes likely to be seen in banksia/tuart woodland after an autumn prescribed burn are an increase in the cover of weeds, particularly some introduced annual grasses and herbs, and the recruitment of transformer weeds, such as pigface.
- While established techniques including an annual control program using selective herbicides can effectively reduce cover of grass weeds post-fire, introduced annual herbs not targeted for control can remain very abundant in burnt sites for at least three years after a prescribed fire, particularly when grazing reduces competition from shrubs.



The shrub layer was significantly higher in fenced sites three years after the burn. Photo – Kate Brown.



*Carpobrotus edulis* (weedy pigface) was only present in burnt sites. Photo – Kate Brown.

- Grazing by western grey kangaroo can have a major adverse impact on vegetation structure post-fire, particularly on the establishment of a shrub layer. While fencing out herbivores post-fire could be a useful tool for restoring native vegetation, in the study it also reduced grazing pressure on serious weeds including pigface and some annual grasses.
- Keeping herbivores in the system and manipulating them in time and space could be an important and cost-effective way of maintaining biodiversity values following fire in a previously long-unburnt banksia/tuart woodland.

This study reports only on post fire response of a banksia/tuart woodland at a single site - response to disturbance such as fire in fragmented landscapes can sometimes differ markedly in accordance with management history. In addition the results may not necessarily be applicable to all banksia/tuart woodlands across the region but this kind of site specific information is integral to effective adaptive management of significant remnant woodlands, particularly in response to disturbance such as prescribed fire.

**Further reading:** Brown K, Paczkowska G, Gibson N (2016) Mitigating impacts of weeds and kangaroo grazing following prescribed fire in a Banksia woodland. *Ecological Management & Restoration* 17(2), 133-139.

# what's on


Opportunities for you to take part. Visitors always welcome but please confirm activities with the contact person. Most activities are FREE!

## Recurrent activities


### Saturdays 15 minutes before sunrise

 **Research into bird populations** with the **Herdsmen Lake** Bird Banding Group. Contact Bill Rutherford (ABBBS Coordinator) 0438 910 252 or [email](#).

### Saturdays 8am-9am

 **Guided walks** with Friends of **Koondoola**. Second Saturday of each month. Meet Gate 2, corner Koondoola and Burbridge Ave, Alexander Heights.


### Saturdays 8am-9am

 **Guided walks** and meeting with Friends of **Landsdale**. First Saturday of each month. Meet at third gate Landsdale Rd, east of Landsdale Farm School, Darch.

### Saturdays 8.30am-10.30am

 **Bushcare activities** with the Friends of **Booragoon** and **Blue Gum Lakes**. First Saturday of each month. Meet at the boardwalk into Booragoon Lake on Alridge Rd, Booragoon. Contact Mary-Ann 9316 9716 or [email](#).

### Saturdays 8.30am-10.30am

 **Bushcare activities** with Swan Estuary Reserves Action Group at **Alfred Cove** Nature Reserve. Fourth Saturday of each month. Contact Cathie 9339 2439 or [email](#).

### Saturdays 9am

 **Bushcare activities** with Friends of **Brixton Street** Wetlands. Third Saturday of each month. Meet Alton St, Kenwick. Contact Regina 9459 2964 or [email](#).

### Saturdays, Sundays 9am-12noon

 **Koala maintenance** at Yanchep National Park. Call Ciara 9303 7771.


### Sundays

 **Wilson Wetlands** Action Group undertakes regular work mornings throughout the year on Sunday mornings. Contact 9258 7301 or [email](#).


### Sundays 8am-9am

 **Guided walks** with Friends of **Marangaroo**. Fourth Sunday of each month. Meet at Gate 3, Decourcy Way, Marangaroo.


### Sundays 8am-10am

 **Bushcare activities** every Sunday with Friends of **Shenton Park** Bushland. Contact Dani 9381 3470 or [email](#).

### Sundays 8.30am

 **Bushcare activities** with Friends of **Wireless Hill**. Second and fourth Sunday of each month. Meet at main carpark. Contact Margaret 0402 105 649 or [email](#).


### Sundays 8.30am-9.30am

 **Guided walks** followed by meeting with Friends of **Mirraboona**. First Sunday of each month. Call Jan 9344 2872.


### Sundays 9am-11am

 Friends of **Lake Claremont busy bee** and morning tea, second Sunday of every month. Meet at the south end of Strickland Street, Swanbourne. Current focus: hand weeding. Wear closed in shoes, hat and long-sleeves. Gloves and tools provided. Call: 0416 614 696 or visit [web](#).


### Sundays 9am-11am

 **Bushcare activities** with **Cottesloe** Coastcare. First Sunday of each month. Contact Robyn 9384 7668, [email](#) or visit [web](#).

### Sundays 9am-12 noon

 **Bushcare activities** with the Friends of the **Spectacles** (Kwinana). Third Sunday of each month. Contact Lynda 0419 983 956 or [email](#).


### Sundays 9.45am-12 noon

 **Bushcare activities** with the Friends of **Piesse Brook**. Third Sunday of each month. Phone Gerry 9293 2517 or [email](#) Bridget.

### Mondays 7am-8am

 **Norma's Monday Morning Weeding Group**. Friends of **Lake Claremont** weekly hand weeding. Learn basic weeding techniques and identification. Meet at south end of Strickland Street. Phone 0413 282 515.


### Mondays 9am-11am

 **Litter collection** with Swan Estuary Reserves Action Group at **Milyu A-Class** Nature Reserve, **South Perth**. Second Monday of each month. Contact Cathie 93392439 or [email](#).

### Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays 9am-12 noon

 **Bushcare activities** and **wetlands walk trail maintenance** with **Yanchep** National Park Volunteers. Call Ciara 9303 7771.


### Tuesdays 7am-9am

 **Bushcare activities** with Swan Estuary Reserves Action Group at **Alfred Cove** A-Class Nature Reserve each Tuesday. Contact Cathie 93392439 or [email](#).

### Tuesdays and Thursdays, 8am-10am


 **Coastcare activities** with **Stirling** Natural Environment CoastCare (SNEC). Contact Sheldon 0488 190 651, Rae 0419 191 710 or visit [web](#).

### Wednesdays, 3pm-5pm during school term

 **Wildlife Wednesdays**. Join 'Eco-Warriors' at **Herdsmen Lake** Wildlife Centre. Contact 93876079 or [email](#).

### Wednesdays and Saturdays


#### 7.30am-9.30am

 **Bushcare activities** with **Bicton** Environmental Action Group. Planting, weeding and foreshore cleanup. Various dates. Contact Peter 0439 467 855 or [email](#).

#### Thursdays 7.30am-9.30am and some Saturdays 8.30am-12 noon

 **Coastcare activities** with Friends of **Sorrento Beach** and **Marmion Foreshore** followed by morning tea. Call Mike 0438 710 527.


#### Thursdays 8am-9am

 **Bushcare activities** every Thursday with **Byford** Enviro-Link. Call Johanne or Kristy 9526 0199.


#### Thursdays 9am-1pm

 **Bushcare activities** in **Margaret River** with the Capes Volunteer Team. Call 9757 2202.

#### Thursdays 9am-11am

 **Bushcare activities** on the fourth Thursday of each month at **Baldivis** Children's Forest. [Facebook](#)


#### Thursdays, Saturdays and Sundays 9am

 **Morning walks** with Friends of **Bold Park** Bushland Volunteer Guides. Various dates. Contact 9480 3996, [email](#) or visit [web](#).

#### Thursdays and Sundays 10am-12noon

 **Kanyana Wildlife Centre**, Discovery Centre Tours. Close encounters with native animals and interactive Discovery Centre. \$20 or less. Bookings essential. Visit [Web](#), [email](#) or 9291 3900.


#### Thursdays or Fridays 9am-4pm

 **Wetland, bushcare and nursery activities** with **Cockburn Wetlands** Centre. Contact Denise 0412 081 540 or [email](#).


#### Thursdays 7.30pm

 **Talks** with Murdoch Branch of the **Wildflower Society** to share passion and knowledge of nature. First Thursday each month. Cockburn Wetlands Education Centre. Call Pawel 0410 305 034 or [Facebook](#).


#### Fridays and Saturdays 7pm-9pm


 First Friday and second Saturday every month, **Nocturnal Tours**, **Kanyana Wildlife Centre**. Meet nocturnal native wildlife and hear about endangered species breeding programs. \$20 or less. Bookings essential. Visit [Web](#), [email](#) or 9291 3900.


#### Fridays 8am


 **Bushcare activities** at **Piney Lakes**. Volunteers need a site induction. [Email](#).

#### Fridays 9am

 **Coastcare** with **Mullaloo Beach** Community Group. Planting, weeding and collecting marine debris. Equipment and refreshments provided. [Email](#).


 **Conservation Volunteers Australia** has local projects every week Monday to Friday with occasional weekend activities. Call 9335 2777, [email](#) or visit [web](#).

 **WA Naturalists** hold regular talks and excursions each month. [View](#) their calendar for the activities of the four branches.


 **Wildflower Society of WA** holds regular talks. [View](#) their calendar.

## October


### 3 Monday 10am-2.30pm

 **World Animal Day Expo. Piney Lakes** Environmental Education Centre \$8 per child (family discount available). Details [online](#).


### 4 Tuesday 9.30am & 12.30noon.

 **Camp Cooking for Kids**. 4km walk & cooking class. Ages 6-12 years. Bookings essential, \$35 per child, \$5 per adult. [Bibbulmun Track Foundation](#).


### 4 Tuesday 11am-4pm

 **Canning Canoeing Quest**. Ages 11-14 years. Bookings required. Charges apply. [Nearer to Nature](#).


### 4 Tuesday 3pm - 5 Wednesday 10am

 **Big Kids Campout. Mundaring** National Park Centre. Ages 8-12 years, Bookings required. Charges apply. [Nearer to Nature](#).


### 6 Thursday 7.30pm-9.30pm

 **Good to see Goodeniaceae**. Talk by Prof Jim Barrow, **Cockburn** Wetlands Education Centre. [Wildflower Society](#).


### 7 Friday 6.30-8.30pm

 **FrogFest. Herdsmen Wildlife Centre**. Sausage sizzle. Talk by Eric McCrum and then out with torches to spot frogs. Suitable all ages. \$15/ person. Bookings essential 9387 6079 or [email](#).


### 7 Friday 4.15pm - 9 Sunday 6pm

 **Ramble and Paddle**. Walking & canoeing weekend in **Dwellingup**. Cost \$315. Bookings close 4 October. [Bibbulmun Track Foundation](#).

### 8 Saturday 9.45am-12noon

 **Blackadder Wetland wonderland tour**. Blackadder Woodbridge Catchment group. Meet at Harper St carpark, Ray Marshall Park, **Woodbridge**. Register [online](#).


### 8 Saturday 10am-1pm

 **Bushfire Preparedness and Resilience Workshop**. Banjup Community Hall, Oxley Rd **Banjup**. Bookings essential. [Email](#).


### 8 Saturday

 [Great Aussie Camp Out](#).

### 9 Sunday 8.30am-2.30pm.

 **Bibbulmun Birds**. 12km walk with Sue Abbots. \$40 per person includes 'Common Birds of the South West Forests' Bush Book. Bookings close 8 October. [Bibbulmun Track Foundation](#).

### 9 Sunday 8am

 **Birdwalk. Forrestdale Lake**. Meet at Moore Street car park. [Birdlife WA](#) 9383 7749.

## Activities key

-  **Hands on** – bushland and wetland management activities.
-  **Walks and tours** – look, listen and enjoy guided walks and excursions.
-  **Skills development activities** – talks, presentations, training courses and workshops.
-  **Meetings and events** – group meetings, expos, festivals and conferences.

**11 Tuesday 8.30am-2pm**  
**Wildlife Walk**, Herdsman Lake. Discover one of the most varied waterbird fauna of any lake in SWWA. Includes 8km walk, morning tea and informative talk. [Addie Mills Centre](#) or 9391 6030. Details on [web](#)

**11 Tuesday 8pm-9.30pm**  
**Beautiful Gardens of Perth Branch Members photographic tour**. [Subiaco](#) Community Centre. [Wildflower Society](#).

**12 Wednesday 9.30am-4pm**  
**Key Issues of Volunteer Management**. Workshop for volunteer managers at Mills Park Centre, 86 Brixton St **Beckenham**. Bookings essential by 5 October to [City of Gosnells](#) or 93973123

**12 Wednesday 7.30am**  
**Birdwalk**. **Lake Monger**. Meet at the most westerly car park off Lake Monger Drive, **Cambridge**. [Birdlife](#) WA 9383 7749.

**12 Wednesday 6.00pm-8.30pm**  
**Dolphin Watch Citizen Science Information Session**. Scitech, City West Centre, **West Perth**.

**14 Friday & 15 Saturday**  
**Kelmscott Show Wildflower Display**. [Wildflower Society](#).

**15 Saturday 9am-12noon**  
**Breakfast with the Birds**. Piney Lakes Environmental Education Centre Free. Details [online](#).

**15 Saturday 9am**  
**Morning walk** with Friends of Bold Park Bushland Volunteer Guides. Enjoy the bushland in full bloom with wildflowers. Meet at Tuart car park, Perry Lakes Drive, **City Beach**. Details and future walk dates [online](#), call 9480 3996 or [email](#).

**15 Saturday 8am – 17 Monday 6pm**  
**WA Beach Clean-Up**. Register [online](#).

**17 Monday – 23 Sunday**  
**National Water Week**. Theme is Water-Life-Growth.

**17 Monday – 23 Sunday**  
**National Bird Week**.

**17 Monday – 23 Sunday**  
**Aussie Backyard Bird Count**. Citizen science project. 20 minutes of recording bird species in your chosen green patch. Details [online](#).

**19 Wednesday 6.30pm**  
**Talk**. Kate Brown on the implications of autumn prescribed fire in a banksia woodland. Urban Bushland Council. 2 Delhi St, **West Perth**. Doors open and refreshments available from 6pm.

**20 Thursday 9am-12noon**  
**Midweek work day**. Armadale Gosnells Landcare Group. Meet cnr Homestead Rd & Prince St, **Gosnells**. Details on [web](#).

**21 Friday 8am-3.45pm**  
**Canoeing on the Canning**. Professional development day for teachers, youth group leaders and community members. \$55 Details SERCUL [web](#).

**21 Friday 6.45pm - 9.30pm**  
**Ellis Brook Valley Night Stalk**. Gosnells. Bring your torch for a guided night ramble to discover nocturnal animals and contribute to a national fauna survey. Details on [web](#).

**22 Saturday 3.30pm-6pm**  
**Dr Dolittle Goes Bush**. 2km walk and wildlife encounter from **Kanyana Wildlife Rehabilitation Centre**. Ages 5-12years. Adults \$10, children \$35. Bookings essential. [Bibbulmun Track Foundation](#).

**22 Saturday 9am-11am**  
**Wildflowers in a wetland wonderland, guided walk & morning tea** with Bronwen & Greg Keighery through **Brixton St Wetlands**. Gold coin donation, bookings essential. Call 9397 3111

**23 Sunday 9am**  
**Morning walk** with Friends of Bold Park Bushland Volunteer Guides. Enjoy the bushland in full bloom with wildflowers. Meet at Tuart car park, Perry Lakes Drive, **City Beach**. Details and future walk dates. [Online](#), call 9480 3996 or [email](#).

**23 Sunday 11am-4pm**  
**Spring Eco Fest**, Forrest Place. Celebration of sustainable living and WA environment. Market stalls, workshops, expert speakers, entertainment and children's activities. [Conservation Council of WA](#).

**23 Sunday 9am-5pm**  
**Get Lost With Steve**. Orienteering workshop & 7km walk. \$85. Bookings close 22 October. [Bibbulmun Track Foundation](#).

**28 Friday 5pm – 30 Sunday 4pm**  
**Wongan Hills Reynoldson Reserve Festival**. Wongan Hills Visitors Centre. [Wildflower Society](#).

**28 Friday 8pm**  
**Watch your step: leaf litter critters underfoot**. Talk by biologist Cathy Car. Eastern Hills Wildflower Society. \$2. Octagonal Hall, McGlew St, Glen Forrest. Doors open 7.30pm. Contact [Cathy Car](#) or 0404959654.

**29 Saturday – 30 Sunday**  
**National Twitchathon**. National Birdwatching event. [Birdlife](#).

## November

**3 Thursday 7.30pm -9.30pm**  
**Spectacular Flora of Hyden**. Talk by Dr Eddy Wajon. Cockburn Wetlands Education Centre. [Wildflower Society](#).

**5 Saturday 6pm**  
**World Numbat Day Quiz Night fundraiser**. Melville Bowling Club. Silent auction and games, prizes. [Tickets](#) \$20 per person, tables of 8. Licenced bar. BYO nibbles.

**8 Tuesday 8pm-9.30pm**  
**Fire and Kings Park**. Talk by Ben Miller. [Subiaco](#) Community Centre. [Wildflower Society](#).

**9 Wednesday 6pm-8pm**  
**Worm Farming workshop**. Beeliar Community Centre. Bookings essential. [Email](#).

**10 Thursday 8am**  
**Birdwalk**. **Pelican Point, Crawley**. Meet at the gazebo at the entrance to the Reserve, south of the Mounts Bay Sailing Club, Australia II Drive, **Crawley**. [Birdlife](#) WA 9383 7749.

**13 Sunday - 20 Sunday**  
**Wild Pollinator Count**. **Citizen science** project. Count wild pollinators in your local environment and help build a database on wild pollinator activity. Just 10 minutes sometime during the count week watching a flowering plant. Details [online](#).

**15 Tuesday 12.30pm-1.30pm**  
**Events Planning: Everything you need to know**. Free workshop. Mills Park Centre, 86 Brixton St **Beckenham**. Bookings essential to [City of Gosnells](#) or 93973121

**15 Tuesday 9.30-12**  
**Tour of Regional Resource Recovery Centre** in **Canning Vale**. Registrations essential. [Email](#).

**16 Wednesday 6.30pm**  
**Talk**. Renata Zelina on Connectivity and its importance in the urban area. Urban Bushland Council. 2 Delhi St, **West Perth**. Doors open and refreshments available from 6pm.

**17 Thursday 9-12**  
**Midweek work day**. Armadale Gosnells Landcare Group. Meet at Parkside Drive near intersection with Glyndenbourne Ave, Thornlie. [SERCUL](#).

**20 Sunday 9am-11am**  
**Frogs and more frogs**. Talk by Amy Krupa from SERCUL. Mary Carroll Park, Eudoria St Gosnells. Gold coin donation, bookings essential. Contact 9397 3111.

**25 Friday 8pm**  
**Insectivorous plants**. Talk by botanist Neville Marchant. Eastern Hills Wildflower Society. \$2. Octagonal Hall, McGlew St, Glen Forrest. Doors open 7.30pm. Contact [Cathy Car](#) or 0404959654.

**26 Saturday 9-10.30**  
**Guided Indigenous walk**. Coogee Beach Reserve, Powell Rd Coogee. Bookings essential. [Email](#).

**26 Saturday 5.30pm-9.30pm**  
**Star Trek**. 8.6km night walk. \$30. Bookings essential. [Bibbulmun Track Foundation](#).

**26 Saturday – 27 Sunday**  
**Rockingham Regional Environment Centre**, Naragebup Grand Re-opening Festival Weekend, celebrating the centre's 20th anniversary. For details and stall applications [email](#).

**30 Wednesday – 6 December**  
**Tuesday**  
**Coastcare Week**

## Highlights

**27 October – 31 October**  
**Coast to Coast Conference 2014** - Coastal Knowledge for Coastal Change, Mandurah.

**Outdoors October**. See [web](#) for listed events.

**WA Naturalists' Club** – many activities throughout the months. [Website](#)

**Conservation Volunteers**. Opportunities to participate in bushland restoration activities. [Website](#).

October 3-7. Wetland and Catchment restoration

October 10-14. Swan Canning River Park Biodiversity Project

October 15. West Australian Beach Clean Up, Woodman Point

October 16. West Australian Beach Clean Up – Bathurst Beach & Swan River Foreshore Fremantle.

October 17-21. Coastal Restoration

October 24-28. Wetland and Catchment Restoration

October 31 – November 4. Swan Canning River Park Biodiversity Project

**Nearer to Nature Sunlit Spring**. Outdoor activities for kids. Bookings essential. [Web](#).

**Hike it Baby walks**. Free organised walks for parents and young kids in local reserves. NOT suitable for strollers. [Web](#).

**Quokka walk**. Guided walking tour @2.15pm daily through October. [Web](#).

**Nocturnal Woylie Walks**. Fridays 6.30-8pm, Woodland Reserve, **Whiteman Park**. Bookings essential, cost \$15 Adult, \$10 Child, Family (2A +2C) \$45, see [web](#).

**Living Smart Course**. 7 weeks plus field trip – Saturdays 10-12.30, 15 October to 26 November. Bibra Lake. \$80 or \$40 concession. Bookings essential. Details [online](#).

## December

**2 Friday 7.00pm -9.30pm**  
**Night stalk** at Mary Carroll Park. Gosnells. Gold coin donation, bookings essential. Contact 9397 3111 or [Web](#).

**3 Saturday 7.30am**  
**Birdwalk**. Big Carine Lake. Meet in the car park off Beach Road, Carine. [Birdlife](#) WA 9383 7749.

**3 Saturday – 4 Sunday**  
**Challenge Bird Count**. Birding event. [Birdlife](#).

**10 Saturday 7.30am**  
**Birdwalk**. Herdsman Lake. Meet in car park of Perth Pony Club, Jon Sanders Drive (near Selby Street), Stirling. [Birdlife](#) WA 9383 7749.

**15 Thursday 7.30am**  
**Birdwalk**. Clarkson Reserve. Meet in car park on east side of tennis courts off Clarkson Road, Maylands. [Birdlife](#) WA 9383 7749.

**15 Thursday 9am-12noon**  
**Midweek work day**. Gosnells Landcare Group. Meet at Ophelia Grove, Mt Nasura. Details [online](#).

Please send us your January, February and March events by Thursday 24 November 2016.

Please send us your regional report (200 words) and a photo by Thursday 24 November 2016. Text may be edited in response to volume of submitted reports.

## Vigilance thwarts vandalism near Mundy Regional Park *By Tony Fowler*

Once again the hills are alive, this time with the sound of chainsaws. In this instance, given the fact that nearby residents heard nothing, electric chainsaws were probably used. An observant Lesmurdie resident, a member of Nature Reserves Preservation Group (NRPG), noticed dozens of trunks marked with yellow and white blazes on trees extending down into Mundy Regional Park. Several of the trunks had been partially cut, perhaps with the idea of continuing the cut at a later stage to effectively ring-bark the tree.

Enquiries revealed little. Neither the Shire of Kalamunda, nor Parks and Wildlife Regional Parks, nor any utilities knew of the marking. Once notified, Parks and Wildlife and Kalamunda Shire staff promptly coordinated a response to the incident. Department staff repaired the chainsaw damaged trunks, spanned the cuts with plates secured to the trunks and clad the trunks with powder-coated metal fencing material, to deter further sawing attempts. Warning notices were installed by Parks and Wildlife, pointing out the vandalism and threatening prosecution of anyone found committing such acts.

Kalamunda Shire staff installed large boulders on the verges on the downhill side of Ford Road above the park and organised a letter drop of the area advising residents of the incident. They were also called to remove a limb, partially cut through, which fell across Ford Road following high winds.

Unfortunately, this has happened before on the interface of the regional park and the urban area. In Gooseberry Hill, trees within the Mundy Regional Park were felled, obviously to improve the view of a house then up for sale. In that instance, the alarm was raised by a local estate agency. As in most of these cases, the act of vandalism is noticed only after the perpetrators have left the scene. Any conclusions drawn as to whom was responsible can only be conjecture. Without positive proof, no further action can be taken.



*Damaged tree trunks in Mundy Regional park were patched with plates secured to the trunks and clad with powder coated metal fencing material to deter further sawing attempts. Photo – Tony Fowler.*

While this latest vandalism act was reprehensible and completely selfish, positives have emerged from the incident. Parks and Wildlife staff are confident they have been able to save the damaged trees. Local residents have been made aware of the need to be constantly on the lookout for such activity and to report it to the shire or to Parks and Wildlife. Community papers have featured the damage and residents should be reassured by the prompt combined action of the on-ground staff of Parks and Wildlife and the Shire of Kalamunda.

**Contact:** Tony Fowler, President NRPG by [email](#)

## NACC is going wild about wildlife *By Jessica Stingemore*

Land for Wildlife is partnering with NRM WA to assist landowners with conservation on their properties. As part of Northern Agricultural Catchment Council's (NACC) current Biodiversity Incentive, land managers now have the opportunity to sign up to Land for Wildlife.

Recently, NACC staff were joined by Parks and Wildlife's Fiona Falconer and Gillian Stack to get a better understanding of the Land for Wildlife process and how NACC can incorporate it into our current projects. As Gillian told us, "Parks and Wildlife's Land for Wildlife is a voluntary program all about supporting private property owners to manage their bushland as wildlife habitat. WA's plants and animals are so diverse and so different to species from other parts of the country and the world - for their own sake and for our sense of place, it's important that they survive in nature, not just in zoos and botanic gardens. For this reason, I am really excited about the partnership of Land for Wildlife and NACC. Our goals are very well-aligned, and I think we can offer great service to people with bushland on their properties."



*NACC is working with Land for Wildlife to provide landmangers with new opportunities. Photo – NACC.*

**Contact:** NACC Biodiversity Coordinator [Jessica Stingemore](#) or 9938 0106.



## Dieback conference tackles pathogen problem *By Emer O'Gara*

On a cold though sunny day in July, the 2016 Dieback Information Group Conference was held at Murdoch University, with Parks and Wildlife as a key sponsor. The annual conference was organised by the Dieback Working Group (DWG), a not-for-profit organisation that aims to promote best practice in Phytophthora dieback management by government, industry, NGOs, utilities and landholders.

About 170 people attended and were welcomed to country by Noongar elder Dr Richard Walley. Speakers presented overviews of the current management situation and opportunities. Researchers described advances in new techniques for detection, managing impacts in mining, predicted future occurrence, marri canker and a succinct summary of multiple Phytophthora species' impact and management in New Zealand.

Parks and Wildlife disease and hygiene standards officer Peter Blankendaal presented information on how the Dieback Interpreter Registration and Standards manual operates and the Department's Perth Hills District



*The 2016 Dieback Information Conference was held at Murdoch University in July. Photo – DIG.*

nature conservation coordinator Bob Huston showcased some innovative on-ground practices for dealing with Phytophthora-infested priority protection areas. Main Roads Western Australia showed their commitment to managing disease spread with support for a project designed to eradicate Phytophthora from infected potential gravel pits. An holistic approach to pathogen management was demonstrated across a local government jurisdiction by City of Joondalup and

a thematic message and effective use of technologies talk was presented by industry partners.

The nature and quality of questions at closing indicated the DWG had achieved the conference aim and provided the community and stakeholders with an open venue to share information and concerns about Phytophthora dieback at both the global and local scale.

**Contact:** [Emer O'Gara](#)

## Have you got your Green Card? *By Kat Sambrooks*

The Dieback Working Group has been working hard to develop a training program that meets the needs of in-field operators within Phytophthora dieback risk areas. In collaboration with the Department of Parks and Wildlife and South Coast NRM, with funding from State NRM, we developed the Green Card Training Program.

The program gives trainees an understanding of Phytophthora dieback hygiene management at a Certificate II level in a short 3-4 hour course. Green Card is perfect for on-ground staff, contractors and volunteers and has already been widely taken up with more than 500 people trained.

The Dieback Working Group aims to develop the training as a national training standard for in-field staff and contractors, a need identified in the Threat Abatement Plan for *Phytophthora cinnamomi*. We are keen to see more and more organisations build the training into their operation and managerial policies and procedures.

Private training sessions can be arranged through one of the trainers listed on the Green Card page on our [website](#). The DWG also holds several open training sessions throughout the year which are advertised on our Green Card page and via email and other communications.

**Contact:** Kat Sambrooks, Executive Officer, Dieback Working Group, [Email](#), or phone 0488 082 628.



*Green Card provides participants with an understanding of Phytophthora dieback hygiene management. Photo – DWG.*

# Phosphite could help save dieback-susceptible plant species

By Emer O’Gara

**An estimated 40 per cent of the unique flora of WA’s South-West Botanical Province is susceptible to *Phytophthora dieback*, which is caused by the introduced plant pathogen *Phytophthora cinnamomi*. In fact, *Phytophthora dieback* is pushing a number of highly susceptible species to the brink of extinction.**

Wild populations of the critically endangered and highly susceptible *Banksia anaton*, *B. montana* and *Persoonia micranthera* only exist at already-infested sites. What can be done to stop these species from going over the edge? Three main avenues are available to Parks and Wildlife. Firstly, the collection and banking of seeds at the department’s Threatened Flora Seed Centre as insurance against extinction. Secondly, ‘translocation’, which is undertaken by the department’s Plant Science Program and Herbarium Branch. Translocation is the deliberate transfer of plant material from one area to another to create a viable population at uninfested sites. Seed conservation and translocation represent ‘ex-situ’ conservation, but the third method is undertaken ‘in-situ’ and involves the treatment of the plants at the infested site with phosphite.

Phosphite has been used in the horticultural industry to control *P. cinnamomi* since the 1980s, particularly in avocado. In the 1990s Dr Bryan Shearer, who was a research scientist with the department for more than 30 years, and his colleagues, including the current manager of the Vegetation Health Service Colin Crane, developed a method for low-volume spray application of phosphite from aircraft – the most efficient way to treat broad areas of native vegetation. The South Coast and South West regions have long-standing spraying programs to protect the highly susceptible communities of Eastern Stirling Range Montane Heath and Thicket and the Shrublands on Southern Swan Coastal Plain Ironstones near Busselton from the ravages of *Phytophthora dieback*. These threatened ecological communities are listed under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation (EPBC) Act.



Aerial spraying enables phosphite to be applied to broad areas of *Phytophthora*-susceptible vegetation. Photo – Sarah Barrett.

Phosphite is not strictly a fungicide...so how does it work? In highly susceptible plants *P. cinnamomi* behaves initially like a con-artist, in that it infects and starts to colonise the plant tissues without causing symptoms, and then it turns into a thug and starts killing the plant. By this time it is too late for the plant to defend itself. But phosphite, which is absorbed by the leaves and transported throughout the plant including the root system, enables the plant to immediately recognise when there is a hitch-hiker on board. The plant then turns on its natural defence response and fights off the infection – analogous to a human’s immune system fighting off a cold or flu.

Phosphite-based products are registered with the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA) for use in a range of agricultural and

horticultural crops. However, they are not registered for use in native vegetation and an off-label or ‘minor use’ permit is required to legally use them in native vegetation in WA. The Department of Parks and Wildlife is the holder of [Permit PER13534](#). The permit is valid until 31 October 2018, and is available for use by ‘Persons generally’ in WA. Phosphite-based products should be used in strict accordance with the conditions on the permit and adherence to the conditions is the sole responsibility of the individual using the products.

More information on the application of phosphite can be found on the Parks and Wildlife website in the [Best Practice Guidelines](#) and on the Dieback Working Group website on the [treatment page](#) and the [expert directory](#).

**Contact:** Emer O’Gara, Department of Parks and Wildlife by [email](#).

## Learning opportunity

### Building social media skills in community groups

Community volunteers from across Perth gained confidence in their social media skills at a recent workshop held by Perth NRM, which aimed to help them promote group activities and attract new members. The Social Media for Community Groups workshop, aimed at building community capacity, used practical examples to show how Facebook, Twitter and Instagram could broaden audiences and strengthen online presence.

Held at Herdsman Lake Wildlife Centre, it was a fantastic learning opportunity for regular social media users as well as beginners. Presenters included Erin Devlin from Perth NRM and Lauren Emmerson from Department of Parks and Wildlife. The Volunteer Capacity Building in NRM workshop series has been developed to address responses from volunteers in last year’s [Community Capacity Assessment Survey in NRM](#).

Contact [Ingrid](#) for information on future workshops or the Volunteer Capacity Building in NRM series.

## Friends of Kensington Bushland *By Klaus Backheuer*



*Some of the friends on a site visit to Kensington Bushland to look at weed management options following the hot summer bushfire. Photo – Rebecca Ong.*

**The Friends of Kensington Bushland was formed in 1999 and, since then, has been dedicated to the preservation of the Jirdarup Bushland Precinct, which incorporates Kensington Bushland, George Street Reserve and Kent Street Sand Pit. Kensington Bushland is a nine-hectare Bush Forever site, located between Etwell Street and Baron-Hay Court in East Victoria Park. The site is jarrah-banksia woodland and is home to a wealth of native flora and fauna species. It is managed by the Town of Victoria Park for conservation, passive recreation and education.**

### Wildflower walks

The Eastern Hills Branch of the Wildflower Society has resurrected its bush walks in the spring. These walks are short and suitable for most people and are led by society members who are experienced in finding and identifying local wildflower species.

The first of these walks was held on Saturday 23 July on the Gorge Circuit, Darlington (pictured). Luckily the rain stayed away while walkers strolled along and were shown how the vegetation changed with soil type and overstorey age. Six vegetation types were identified and 102 different plant species were discussed during the walk.

The second walk was in Greenmount National Park on 27 August, enabling walkers to look specifically at the effects of fire on flowering. The third walk will likely be held in the Shire of Mundaring in October.



The Kent Street Sand Pit is adjacent to Kensington Bushland. The group plans to revegetate this area with endemic species to create a seamless ecological corridor – an 'ecotone' – to the bushland. The first step in this process it to have the sandpit reclassified and we are working to expedite this. We are also actively contributing to the development of the Town of Victoria Park's new Strategic Management Plan 2016-18.

Every year we conduct weeding and planting days, guided spring walks and other activities to conserve and share this rare natural oasis, where people of all ages can relax and discover Western Australia's wonderful biodiversity.

We have a core group of nine people who meet every month or two and work on defining goals and strategy, liaising with the Town of Victoria Park, and organising, managing and participating in events. A wider friends circle of about 50 people are involved in various activities. We have about 380 followers on [Facebook](#). However it is still a challenge at times to rally enough volunteers to help with planting and weeding, so we are keen to hear from new people who would like to be involved.

Contact Klaus Backheuer by [email](#).

**STOP PRESS:** The Banksia Woodlands of the Swan Coastal Plain has been listed as an Endangered ecological community under the EPBC Act. The registration is now complete and the listing is effective from 16 September 2016. We'll report more in the next issue of Bushland News. Meanwhile, see here for [details](#).

# Resources

## New publications

### Understanding Change in the Ecological Character of Internationally Important Wetlands.

Marine & Freshwater Research Special Issue 67(6). Edited by Peter Gell & C. Max Finlayson. CSIRO Publishing. 2016. \$75. This special issue

provides critical background and information for wetland scientists and managers about the nature of change in wetlands, including what can occur over different timescales, to improve their capacity to understand the present condition and trajectory – or trajectories – of change. The publication is an outcome of the 2013 workshop 'Ramsar Wetlands: Understanding Change in Ecological Character' held at Queenscliff, Australia.



### The East Asian–Australasian Flyway: Population Trends, Threats and the Future.

Emu Special Issue 116(2). Edited by: Danny Rogers, Judit Szabo & Phil Battley. CSIRO Publishing. 2016. \$75. Shorebird populations are in trouble worldwide, but some of the steepest and most widespread declines are seen in the East Asian–Australasian Flyway

(EAAF). This publication highlights the plight of shorebirds migrating within the EAAF, bringing new insights into how and when shorebirds move along the flyway, the challenges they face, and their potential to adapt in this changing world.



## Research

Brown K and Paczkowska G (2016) Silver gulls (*Chroicocephalus novaehollandiae*) as vectors for invasive olives (*Olea europaea ssp. europaea*) onto Penguin Island, Shoalwater Bay, Rockingham. Western Australian Naturalist. 30:3, 148-151.

## Apps

### Birdata

BirdLife Australia's new [Birdata web portal](#) is now online. The portal incorporates the existing Great Cocky Count and WA Black-Cockatoo sightings database. The revamped Birdata platform includes a free mobile app for Apple or Android devices, enabling data entry in the field for a number of key BirdLife Australia monitoring programs. This will be available shortly through the App stores.

## Website Watch

### Weeds on the web

Weeds of National Significance ([WoNS](#)) webpages, now reside on the Atlas of Living Australia (ALA). You can access all the WoNS best practice materials, maps, prioritisation tools and other species-specific information.

### Phytophthora dieback management tool

A one-stop-shop for environmental managers, the Dieback Information Delivery and Management System (DIDMS) is a free web-based system designed to guide government, industry and community in their decision making and provide an effective tool to collate Phytophthora dieback information.

DIDMS not only enables the storing, viewing and sharing of spatial Phytophthora Dieback information but also contains up-to-date data on four other Phytophthora species and one *Armillaria* species, all of which are affecting bushland in the South West. DIDMS facilitates Phytophthora Dieback data management and provides a standardised process for uploading and exporting data.

Visit the [website](#) for more information.

## Lookout for

## Rock parrots

Rock parrots generally forage on the ground, feeding on plants and seeds.

The Bold Park Bird Banding Group has been working with the rock parrots on Rottnest Island for the past four years, with research underway to determine the size of the population. Birds have had colour bands applied to their legs so individuals can be identified, enabling breeding success, relatedness of the flock, home range and longevity of individuals to be monitored.

Public support and sightings are needed for the success of this project.

Visitors to Rottnest are asked to take photos of rock parrots if possible and send them, along with the colour of the leg band, date, location, size of group and any additional comments, to Mark Blythman or James Sansom by [email](#).



Photo – Jennie Stock.

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