



WETLANDS

— CONSERVATION SOCIETY —

Newsletter 2/22

April 2022

Annual General Meeting 20 April 2022

The 37th Annual General Meeting of the Wetlands Conservation Society will be held via Zoom at 8pm on Wednesday 20 April 2022. Because of the high level of covid infection in the community the Committee has resolved to hold this year's AGM on line. If you would like to attend please send me a message with your preferred email address and I will invite you to join the meeting. Zoom is a free, on line conferencing program that you can download to your laptop, iPad or smart phone from <https://zoom.us/download?os=android> Please join us for the AGM, if possible. If you need help to use or download Zoom, please let me know. The Agenda for the AGM is enclosed, together with the Minutes of last year's AGM and the Annual Report. If you are unable to attend but would like to nominate for office (President, Vice-President, Secretary or Treasurer) or as a committee member, please let me know by email to philipjennings2274@gmail.com .

Westport Project Update

The Westport Task Force has commenced stage 3 of the project to build a new harbour in Cockburn Sound. The preferred site, near James Point, was selected in stage 2 and they are now preparing a business case for the project. The deadline for completion of stage 3 is June 2024. There are some wetland issues involved in this project. The main access route will be Anketell Road, which will be widened to become a 4-lane dual carriageway. This road passes through sensitive areas in the Jandakot Regional Park and close to the Spectacles wetland in the Beeliam Regional Park. Rowley Road, which passes close to Lake Wattleup, may also be extended to Rockingham Road, however it will not be extended through the Beeliam Regional Park near Mt Brown. Thomas Road, which also passes close to Modong Reserve, in the Jandakot Regional Park, and the Spectacles wetland, will also become an important access route from the Tonkin Highway to the new port. The Task Force is sensitive to environmental issues and has promised to consult with stakeholders and conservation groups during the planning process.

Bushwalks in the Beeliam Regional Park

Some members of the Wetlands Conservation Society have recently completed a project to produce a guidebook for bushwalks in the Beeliam Regional Park. Sixteen bushwalks are documented and details are provided about what to see at each site, the length of the trail, the difficulty of the trail and the facilities available. The book has been professionally designed using a grant from the Feilman Foundation. It is hoped that this book will help to make the public more aware of the Beeliam Regional Park and its many attractions. If you would like a free electronic copy please send me an email request.

Experiencing Perth's Biodiversity

A second e-book has also been prepared on Experiencing Perth's Biodiversity. The design and production was funded by the Feilman Foundation. This book is a guide to 12 sites which showcase the outstanding biodiversity of the Perth Metropolitan Area. Electronic copies of this book are also available free of charge, if you would like one.

Attadale-Alfred Cove Foreshore Plan Endorsed

The Melville Council has accepted the Attadale-Alfred Cove Foreshore Master Plan which aims to upgrade the environment and facilities of this important wetland conservation and recreation area. Details of the final Master Plan may be found at

<https://www.melvillecity.com.au/our-city/connect-with-us/melville-talks/engagements/attadale-and-alfred-cove-master-plan> .

In accepting the plan, the Council resolved to develop a staged implementation plan as part of its long-term financial plan. It also resolved to appoint a consultant to progress the establishment of the Melville Bird Sanctuary as a high priority initiative.

Goolagatup (Heathcote) Lower Lands Consultation

The City of Melville is undertaking a consultation to develop the detailed design for the Goolagatup Lower Lands following the concept plan that was developed with community input in 2020. Goolagatup is an important conservation, heritage and recreational site. The Lower Land contains a small wetland which was partially filled during the time it was part of the Heathcote Hospital Sports Field. The Upper Land has been protected as a cultural, heritage and recreational site since the hospital closed about 30 years ago. The State Government originally intended to develop the lower land as a high density housing estate, but after a strong community campaign to protect it they vested it in the City of Melville with instructions that it was to be used to enhance the Heathcote Heritage Precinct. After many years of discussion the City of Melville has now determined how it wishes to develop the site. If you are interested in being involved in this consultation you can register your interest via <https://www.melvillecity.com.au/our-city/connect-with-us/melville-talks/engagements/heathcote-goolugatup-lowerlands>

Subscriptions for 2022

Thank you to those of you who have renewed your membership for 2022. If you find a membership renewal form for 2022 enclosed with this newsletter it means that you are still unfinancial. Please renew your membership today and help us to maintain our campaign for wetland conservation in WA. A donation to our Wetlands Trust Fund would also be very welcome and it is tax-deductible. You may pay your subs by cheque or bank transfer.

Philip Jennings

President

33/22 Windelya Road, Murdoch, WA 6150

Email: PhilipJennings2274@gmail.com Phone: 9312 2778