



**Newsletter 3/22**

**September 2022**

## **Spring Excursion, Sunday 2 October 2022**

Our Spring Excursion will be held at Lake Forrestdale on Sunday 2 October 2022 commencing at 10am. The walk will follow the lakeside trail from Forrestdale Primary School on Broome Street, Forrestdale. Along the trail you will see some amazing displays of wildflowers and gain excellent views over this Ramsar listed wetland. WCS member, David James, will guide us and help us to identify the wildflowers and birds that we will see on this excursion. Please gather at the entrance to the trail on Broome Street, next to Forrestdale Primary School. The walk is about 3 kilometres on a well-formed limestone track and will last for about two hours. There is no water or toilet facilities and very little shade, so bring your hat and sunscreen. David and Bryony have invited members to morning tea at their home in Forrestdale after the excursion.

## **North Lake Infrastructure Plan**

The State Government has honoured its election commitment to provide \$3 million for infrastructure at North Lake in the Beeliar Regional Park. This commitment was part of the North Lake rehabilitation plan following the destruction caused by the attempt to construct Roe 8 in 2016. It is additional to the funds provided to the City of Cockburn to revegetate the bushland that was cleared for the road works. This project will involve the construction of two bird hides, upgrades to the existing circuit trail, interpretive signage, revegetation and extensions to the picnic area and parking area. This work is expected to occur during 2023.

## **Eungedup (Lake Saide) Purchase Plan**

The Wilson Inlet Catchment Committee (WICC) with assistance from Wetlands Conservation Society of WA, Birdlife Australia, Gondwana Link, Denmark Bird Group, and the Conservation Council of WA are in the process of buying Eungedup Wetlands on the south coast of Western Australia. WICC will be the owners of the property, once purchased, and are an incorporated charity with Deductible Gift Recipient status. The \$505,000 to buy the property needs to be donated by 23 December 2023 and it's hoped \$100,000 for management costs can also be raised. WICC are conducting conservation works on adjacent properties and has expertise in native flora rehabilitation and invasive species control. These wetlands provide habitat for at least 90 bird species and host up to 10% of the Endangered Australasian Bittern population in Western Australia in some seasons. For more information and to donate go to: <https://www.wicc.org.au/eungedup-wetlands.html>

## **Bollard Bulrush Swamp Landscape Masterplan**

The City of Kwinana has produced a landscape masterplan for the Bollard Bulrush Swamp in Wellard. This large wetland is part of the Beeliar wetlands and was identified thirty years ago as a possible addition to the Beeliar Regional Park. Parts of it were rezoned to urban development, but the central part is still zoned rural and is expected to be eventually rezoned parks and recreation. The City's masterplan is consistent with this goal, and it includes adequate buffers between the urban development and the wetland. Also included are firebreaks, fencing, revegetation, a dual use path and neighbourhood parks. The plan was adopted by the Council on 10 August 2022 and may be viewed at [https://www.kwinana.wa.gov.au/council/documents-publications-and-forms/publications-and-forms-\(all\)/policies/2020/local-planning-policy-no-3-bollard-bulrush-east-la](https://www.kwinana.wa.gov.au/council/documents-publications-and-forms/publications-and-forms-(all)/policies/2020/local-planning-policy-no-3-bollard-bulrush-east-la)

## **Tramway Reserve Trail**

Some years ago, an ambitious plan was put forward by the Cities of Rockingham, Kwinana and Cockburn to construct a recreational trail along the disused Peel Estate Tramway reserve which runs from Lake Kogolup in Jandakot to the Serpentine River in Karnup. The reserve was used for a railway in the 1920s but this was removed once all the useful timber had been removed from the district. This trail has the potential to link many of the wetlands in the eastern chain of the Beeliar wetlands to the Rockingham Lakes and the proposed Lower Serpentine Regional Park. It could become an important wildlife migration route as well as providing outstanding recreational opportunities for local residents. It would also preserve a trail that has been used by the Noongar people for hundreds of years. There is an urgent need to complete this project before urban development erodes the reserve. Upcoming projects like the Westport development and urban development in Wellard and Baldivis are likely to affect it.

## **Web site upgrade**

WCS member, Robyn Pickering, has recently constructed an excellent web site for the Wetlands Conservation Society. It contains explanations of what we do, examples of our publications and submissions, a membership form and many lovely photographs of wetlands, flora and fauna. You can explore this web site at [www.wetlandswa.org.au](http://www.wetlandswa.org.au) Please visit our web site and let me know if you have any comments or suggestions about how to improve it.

## **Season's Greetings**

This is our last newsletter for 2022. The next newsletter will be in January 2023. I hope you all have a safe and happy time over the festive season. We all look forward to better times in 2023. It has been a difficult year, but considerable progress has occurred on conservation issues, including wetlands. Thank you for your support. It is vital to achieving our goals for wetland conservation. Some big initiatives are planned for 2023 and more details will be provided in forthcoming newsletters.

Philip Jennings

President

33/22 Windelya Road, Murdoch, WA 6150

Email: [P.Jennings@murdoch.edu.au](mailto:P.Jennings@murdoch.edu.au) Phone: 9312 2778