

# CREEK LINES

## NEWSLETTER

Issue No. 18 JUL 2026



*We care for the falls*

### Contents

Page

|                      |    |
|----------------------|----|
| From The Chair       | 1  |
| March Busy Bee       | 3  |
| Propagation Report   | 5  |
| April Busy Bee       | 6  |
| Volunteer Profile    | 10 |
| May Busy Bee         | 12 |
| Focus on Ferals      | 16 |
| Then & Now           | 17 |
| Weed Warriors        | 18 |
| Rogue's Gallery      | 21 |
| Further Up The Creek | 22 |
| Spotlight on Fauna   | 23 |
| Bits' n' Bobs        | 28 |
| Looking Forward      | 30 |
| Sponsors             | 33 |
| About Us             | 34 |



## From the Chair

Nick Underwood



Autumn is becoming known as the waiting game – waiting to see if we'll get enough rain to kick off the planting season.

Up to late May we'd seen next to zero down the creek when we really need two or three good dumps to soak in to where it was going to give our plantlings a good start.

Still, it was good prep time for last minute structural repairs on the creekline to protect against hi-flow erosion and an excellent point in the year to get in the spraying contractors to start sorting out the African feather grass and early risers like the freesias and three corner garlic.

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Everything is in readiness up at the plant nursery as is our new track-size trailer to transport plants to site. And the Weed Warriors have been taking advantage of the extended dry to give the ever-wandering wonga wonga what for.

By the end of the month, Huey had really turned on the water works, soaking well into the ground followed by big winds that knocked over susceptible trees and stripped branches off others.

Now, by the time you read this, we will have had our first big planting day with more to follow as soon as we can early in the season. This way the young plants should get a good 'roothold' before enduring their first dry season without regular watering.



*Along with weeding, planting is one of our mainstay activities*

### Friends of everywhere

Right now there seems to be a groundswell of support rising amongst the community for ailing natural environments. Friends groups existing and newly formed are seeking funding and organisational support from willing grant providers and DBCA who are providing centralised coordination and logistical back-up for 'Friends of...' start ups – especially to the east of Perth.

It's all about making it easier for volunteers to make a positive impact on their adopted spaces.

This sort of back-up combined with volunteer enthusiasm is the glue that holds groups together in their quest to make a difference and I have to say it's more like superglue that bonds the commitment of our committee and on-the-ground helpers here in the Friends Of Upper Lesmurdie Falls.

It gives strength from top to bottom to have a committee so dedicated to the cause, willing to learn and lead, to sacrifice their time and donate their expertise for the betterment of our local environment.

Here at the headwaters of a system that impacts country all the way to the sea, our effort has, literally, a huge flow-on effect and it's a momentum we need to maintain.

On that note, with more planting days just around the corner, we hope plenty of you will dust off your green thumbs, gird your collective loins and join us through our next few busy bees for some planting fun.

Just watch for the email from us that tells you we're good to sow.

See you soon.

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# Busy Bee - 8 March

Report from Mark Simpson

If our March busy bee had fallen a day earlier, we would have been dropping like flies in 41 + heat. As it turns out, Sunday rose cooler but with significant humidity. Someone mentioned 80% and it felt like it. Just thinking about getting down and dirty was enough to raise a sweat. Nonetheless 15 hardy souls (16 when you count the indefatigable Angie) turned up on the day to shed a few kilos in the name of conservation.



**Tim preparing seed mix.**

Up in the Shade houses, Terry and Carmel led a team of Joanna and Tim (the happy house hunters) and new volunteer Sandi to plant out several different seed types including Albizia, Pixie mops, Coral vine, Camphor myrtle and cuttings of Leschenaultia.



**Carmel & Sandi sorting seeds.**

Closer to the creek, weed warriors John, Mike and Mark put in a spirited couple of hours wasting the wanton Wonga Vine that threatens to dominate every available space and native plant that gets in its way.

The push to eradicate this voracious pest needs to extend to private properties as well as public spaces because, while it might look attractive, you only need to wander down to Whistlepipe Gully to see what this creepy creeper is capable of. Luckily, over in that space, Joe Gerber and his band of stalwarts are waging a very successful war on the Wonga Vine and the Marri trees are breathing a sigh of relief.



**John mixing it up with the Wonga.**



Down at our pop-up headquarters, (temporarily) one-armed Dick held the fort while Mike R, Fish and newby, Warwick headed for the erosion gully to finish off the cocky gates to our exclusion enclosures which will keep the hungry roos at bay long enough for our plantings to establish a foothold.



**Mike & Warwick showing some fencing moves.**



**Paul putting the finishing touches to a cocky gate.**

With those jobs done the team moved down to Guy's Crossing to join Haydn on the Toro (kindly supplied for the morning by SG Enviro) to move some big rocks close to site in preparation for some diversion wall building downstream of the crossing to protect the banks from erosion over winter/spring.



**Haydn making light work of moving some boondies.**

Great news from the erosion gully – Weed Wizard Andrew Mitchell has identified a *Commersonia* thriving after the burn off of last October so while we were there, we erected a protective enclosure to give the plucky little plant a chance to get some height on.



**Andrew on the job finding rare *Commersonias*.**

By 10.30 everyone was in a state of high anticipation at the thought of Angie's famous morning tea and made for the central car park where she didn't (and never does) disappoint. To add to the feast, Katrina Mitchell dropped in to add a plate of goodies and a dedicated bunch of volunteers got their just rewards. Where would we be without our enthusiastic volunteers? Up the creek with a lot of weeds.



**Look what I found – more bl\*#dy Wonga.**

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# Propagation

## From Carmel Ballinger

Our propagation year has almost finished, with the results now ready for planting. We did a stocktake and have over 2700 plants available to get in the ground as soon as the soil is moist.

While we concentrate on selecting plants that are readily germinated and are hardy and able to withstand the harsh summers, we have some new plants to provide some variety. Our old faithfuls are the Hakeas, *Acacia pulchella* (Prickly Moses), Swan River Myrtle, One-sided bottlebrush and Albizia (now *Paraserianthes*). We try to have plants that will fill niche growing conditions.

Plants that we have grown for the first time are a couple from the pea family, *Mirbelia dilatata* and *Mirbelia remulosa*. Both have attractive bright pea flowers and very prickly leaves. We have also grown a plant (*Commersonia apella*) that grows in our area but which was not listed as such. We have some transplanted seedlings and some plants we have grown from cuttings. It will be exciting if we can establish them.

We have also grown some *Stylidium repens* (Matted triggerplant) by dividing existing plants and we will be keeping our eyes on them and hoping for success. Another plant we have hopes for is *Persoonia elliptica* (Spreading snottygobble). It is notoriously difficult to propagate, so when one of our group, Marie, found some seedlings growing near her grandchild's day care, she (with her plant collectors license) transplanted some of the seedlings to grow on in the shadehouse. While they are not sufficiently developed for planting out, we have high hopes for them. A big thanks to all the group members who cheerfully undertake whatever tasks are required, from weeding, planting seeds, pricking our seedlings, preparing cuttings, cleaning and sterilizing pots. Their efforts are much appreciated and make what can seem like onerous tasks become satisfying, rewarding activities.



***Mirbelia dilatata***

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# Busy Bee - 12 April

Report from Mark Simpson

The April busy bee session had perfectly pleasant weather. Up in the Shade houses, a small but committed group of Jackie, Kathy, Marie, Terry and Carmel had a pleasant productive morning potting on 69 *Paraserianthes lophantha* (it was formerly called *Albizzia*) and 20 *Kennedia coccinea* (Coral Vine). They then turned to cuttings and planted 70 *Lechenaultia biloba* plants. Also planted, were trays of *Gastrobium ebracteolatum*, *Meleleuca parviceps*, *Allocasuarina humilis*, *Isopogon asper* seeds and trays of *Zanthorrohea gracilis* seeds. In addition Terry planted out 50 *Anigozanthus manglesii* (Kangaroo paws) at the Men's Shed.



***Propagation team showing their wares.***

The morning's weeding was right up there as being one of the most satisfying weeding outcomes at a Busy Bee in recent times. It was the persistent systematic teamwork that resulted in impressive progress made with the insidious Wonga on the verge of 100 Falls Rd at the Park's eastern end. An area of approximately 30 metres by 15 metres is for now entirely stripped of this invasive weed. The trailer was mounded to the max with Wonga vegetation and, thanks to Mike R, was taken to the tip. The approach to Wonga was the usual cut, drag away, chase the plant to the base/s, cut and poison again and again... and then repeat boundlessly. Mike R also weeded some Pampas Grass (*Cortaderia selloana*) and African feather Grass in the same area. There is one remaining clump of Pampas Grass remaining and that will be tackled in the near future.



***Hard to see the weeders for the Wonga.***





***Eric in the thick of it.***



***More weed removal.***

The weed group welcomed two new Wonga weeders, Amelia and Dave, although both are very familiar faces at Busy Bees - they are now well and truly off their Wonga weeding 'L' plates! They were joined by Margaret, John, Mike M, Mike R, Eric, and Steph. Thanks to everyone for their wonderful weeding!



***What a great job.***

It was also great to meet the residents whose verge we were weeding on, and we appreciate their support, commitment, and accommodations in our endeavours to clear the area of weeds that impact the Mundy Regional Park. Mike R and Margaret did a quick check of potential regrowth of Oyster plants adjacent to the resident's property (that were pulled out at the Nov BB) and found the area clear. However, it is very early in the season to detect re-emergence (they die back each summer) so we will need to check regularly before we can claim victory. We did see emergent Wonga Vine where we had cleared it out in this area so we will need to spot spray those before they get much bigger.

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Other volunteers moved down to Guy's Crossing. Eleanor and Zac cleared the general site by taking away lots of cut vegetation from the area and stacked it where it might become useful.



***Zac clearing a path of fallen vegetation.***

Haydn took control of a digger (kindly supplied for the morning by Scott Barker) to move some big rocks to create a wall protecting the bank from further erosion over the winter, transfer some reeds from the centre of the brook to improve the direction of flow, and to infill the eroded area with more earth and reeds that are now protected by large rocks.



***Some expert moves by Haydn.***



***Nick's playing in the creek again.***

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Nick and Jared put on wellies and waterproof leggings to direct proceedings from the brook. Ethan, Warwick, Fish and Dick helped out from the bank.

Many thanks also to Paul Dunbar from Orange Valley Sand Supply for the truck that brought the digger to the site.



*Some great masonry work by Jared.*





# Volunteer Profile

**Our Volunteer profile this edition is Paul Fisher, a relative new comer to the Perth Hills.**

**I grew up in Wollongong spending many hours in the hills along the Illawarra Escarpment. I moved to the Central Queensland coast in 1980 where I met my wife Sandra, and our two daughters were born. We moved to WA in 1998 settling in Mandurah until 2022, when I retired and Sandra and I moved to an old cottage in Gooseberry Hill.**



**Have you had any work/personal milestones with your involvement with nature, Flora and fauna etc?**

**I re-ignited my passion for walking when I completed the Annapurna Circuit Trail in Nepal in 2018 with my daughter, a 320km trek with 15,000m of total elevation gain. I've since completed more treks in Nepal and am targeting the Cape to Cape trail here in WA in September.**

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### **What attracted you to the Darling Scarp lifestyle?**

The friendly village atmosphere where people still stop for a chat, the easy access to the bush and the merging of nature and residential life.

### **How long have you lived in the Hills?**

Since November 2022

### **How did your affinity for the bush start?**

I've loved being in the bush for as long as I remember having started out in scouting as a cub and working my way up through the levels. I always enjoyed the bushwalks and camps. By the time I was thirteen I was heading out on bushwalks with mates through the Royal National Park south of Sydney, the Budawang Ranges and the Blue Mountains.

### **When did you join FOULF and what was your motivation?**

I met Nick Underwood at the Kalamunda Artisan Market one Saturday a bit over 2 years ago. I was very impressed with the work FOULF was doing. Being recently retired from paid employment I was looking for some worthwhile projects that enabled me to give a bit back to the community.

### **What do you enjoy most about your connection with FOULF?**

I love channelling my inner child by playing with rocks in the creek. The sense of camaraderie that is always present at the FOULF working bees. Egos get left at home and everybody is there to enjoy themselves and get the job done. Planting season brings out the families and it's always fantastic to see everyone from tots to seniors out there doing their bit. Of course, Angie's morning tea is also a great motivator to front up.

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# BUSY BEE - 10 MAY

Report from Mark Simpson

Kudos and a huge thank you to all the volunteers who turned out on this beautiful autumnal Mother's Day, especially to all the mothers who came along.

On this occasion we decided to tackle just two jobs: one team went off to do propagation work and the other team returned to the Wonga battlefield on the Falls Rd verge at the eastern end of the park to tackle more of the Wonga Wonga Vine (*Pandorea pandorana*), a vigorous Australian native vine that acts as an environmental weed outside its natural range, particularly in parts of WA. It forms dense, woody mats that smother canopy trees and native vegetation and is controlled by cutting vines and applying herbicide to stumps and roots.



***These look ready for planting.***



***The potting goes on.***

While Terry and Carmel checked the shade house plants, Warwick, Kathy and Jackie divided and planted almost 60 sedge plants, which will be useful at the creeks edge. They also potted-on 86 *Isopogon dubius* and 23 *Kennedia coccinea* and repotted *Discorea hastifolia* – the yam bush, which is now coming out of its dormant growth phase. Our stocktake revealed that we had almost 3000 plants ready for planting, which was our target. Some were bursting out, ready to plant, others were smaller but ready.



The second group set out on a mission to eliminate as many of the well rooted and mature Wonga as they could in the time given. The targets were the vines that had reached the canopy of the Marri trees and in the process were slowly strangling them. This approach was to ensure these weeds die and therefore don't flower and send seed drifting off west into the Mundy Regional Park. A special welcome to Janna and Trent for joining the team and significantly lowering the average age of regular weeders which included Nan, Margaret, Dave, Mark, Pete, Mike M and Steph.



***This is what Weed Warriors look like.***



***If you don't wear gloves you might get dirty hands.***

Unfortunately, one of the team, whilst demonstrating how to use the battery-powered secateurs, sliced into one of his fingers. However, fortunately we weed warriors had a first-aid kit with us at our site, and secondly one of our volunteers, Janna, is a nurse. She was able to patch up the wound, and, in this instance, decided that it would be best to get the finger checked asap at the St John Urgent Care Centre in Midland to check the cut hadn't reached the bone inter alia. Steph volunteered to take him there, and they both made it back to site in time to join the rest of us for morning tea.

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Despite two team members needing to make an early exit, the rest of the group made a massive difference to the verge and rescued at least seven mature Marri trees. Sadly, there were some trees that had fallen victim to the Wonga and were only upright because of the vine continuing to head vertically to the next victim. The younger weeders were relentless in their work ethic and the pursuit of mature roots while the mature weeders were thorough with their cutting, poisoning, and removal.



***Janna and Margaret get to the root of the matter.***

To tackle the Wonga, we first needed to clear the area sufficiently to be able to see what's going on, cut the vine to as close to the ground as possible, and then poison the remaining root. The team managed to pull out one root which seemed to connect several vines, and went on for perhaps 10 metres.



***Trent and Margaret at either end of a Wonga root.***



***Trent sets about tackling the Wonga with gusto.***

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Two large piles of thick vines were loaded and later taken to the tip. The low growing Wonga's demise is also on our radar with a plan that they be dealt with by a contract sprayer.



***Nan gets the vine remnants to the kerbside.***

Angie's call to morning tea as she drove past was a very welcome sight as was her impressively delicious spread.



***No-one went hungry.***



***Pete with a small sample of mature Wonga vine and dead trees.***



# FOCUS ON FERALS

By Steph Bewick and Mike Robinson

## *Psoralea pinnata* - Blue broom, African Scurfpea



As one of its names suggests, this plant's origins are in Southern Africa and it is a garden escapee in the Hills area.

It grows to a shrub or small tree and reproduces by seed which are then dispersed by birds, mammals, water, ants, or soil movement. Seeds can remain in the soil for 8 years and fire stimulates germination of soil-stored seed but kills mature plants. Any disturbance triggers mass germination of soil-stored seed.

The suggested method of management and control is to hand pull or dig out seedlings and young plants. More mature plants can be cut and painted with 50% glyphosate. Given the resilience of the seeds, the site has to be monitored for at least 8 years. This has certainly been FOULF's experience and we continue to pull out blue broom many years after the first plants were found 13 years ago. We have found hand pulling easy and very effective. We are very particular about checking the plants for seed pods, removing, and bagging them.

This weed is always close to the brook and can occur anywhere along it. Both sides of the brook are involved but the numbers are greater on the north side. A particularly bad area is from the Terraces Bridge east to the Upper Flow Dam. Another location is both sides of the path downstream from the Shoulder Bridge.



<https://florabase.dbca.wa.gov.au/browse/profile/4155>

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# THEN AND NOW

## Seasonal Transformation

Not so much a transformation on the landscape as a strong seasonal contrast at the main weir.



*Empty - Feb 2024*



*Overflowing - Aug 2025.*

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# MIDWEEK WEED WARRIORS NEWSLETTER

Winter 2026. By Steph Bewick



Since last Newsletter, the wonderful midweek weeders have weeded in a few areas;

- the Erosion Gully after the DBCA burn-off (Black Berry Nightshade, Cape Gooseberries, Bleeding Heart, Nutgrass, Wonga regrowth, Veldt Daisy, Fountain Grass, Carob and Lantana seedlings, and Tagasaste )
- the Upper Flow Dam (Chinese Tallow and Castor Oil plant)
- the Shoulder Bridge (Pavonia, Blue Broom, Fleabane).
- north of the brook and west of the Terraces bridge (Flinders Range Wattles and Sydney Golden Wattles).

However, our attention was drawn to the east end of the park. Since April, the weeders have zoned in on developing a significant weed buffer zone along this boundary. A primary focus has been the eradication of Wonga Wonga vine (*Pandorea pandorana*), specifically on the verge of Falls Rd. Originally, the strategy was eradicating all of the Wonga at their various stages of growth. This was very time intensive, and we had the opportunity to revise our strategy due to the potential of a grant to deal with the low growing vines. So, we were able to focus on the canopy Wonga. These are the



largest of the vines that are strangling the Marri trees and being so high, send seed floating westward into the park in the Spring and Summer. We killed about 20 large vines and have removed trailer loads of material in the process, and we hope to have saved many trees. We will be glad to be able to finish the job over the next few midweek weeds – a huge achievement. We are very grateful for the support and interest of the residents, Clare and Greg, on whose verge we are working.





**Before.**



**After.**

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The Midweek Weed Warriors meet twice a month in addition to the monthly Busy Bees. Thursdays are generally the best days for most of us to meet and we weed for a couple of satisfying and rewarding hours. The company is great and there is always something new to learn. Our heartiest thank you to all weeders who have contributed to saving and protecting the park - your time and efforts are very much appreciated by the FOULF group - and the native plants and animals in the park. We welcome and encourage new members to come along and experience the rewards of making a difference.



## Busy Bee Weed Warriors

Although there is much to do in the park with regards to weeding, our focus during the Busy Bee mornings has also been on the Wonga infestation on the eastern boundary including the verge of Falls Rd. It is time consuming task but essential to protect the park and ultimately save us time, and further infestations, into the future. We are grateful to all those who have volunteered their time and energy and answered the call to arms against the Wonga on their Sunday mornings.

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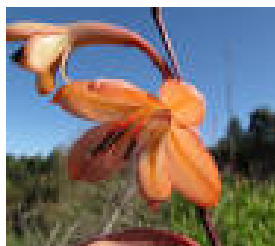
# ROGUES GALLERY



**Jonquils**



**African Feather Grass**



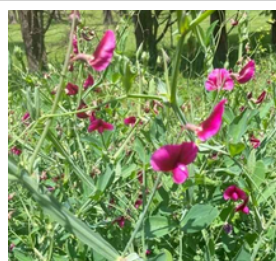
**Watsonia lilly**



**Primrose**



**Jasmine**



**Tangier Pea**



**Flax-leaf broom**



**Paterson's Curse**



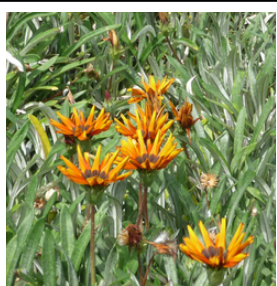
**Veldt daisy**



**Pavonia hastata**



**Olive**



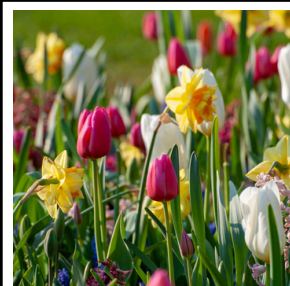
**Gazanias**



**Lavender**



**Tagasaste**



**Garden bulbs**



**Fleabane**



**Nasturtium**



**Blue Broom**



**Sydney golden wattle**



**Wonga Vine**



**Lantana**



**Jacaranda**



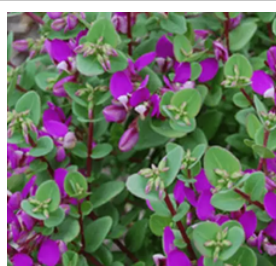
**Wavy Gladiolus**



**Kurrajong**



**Parsley**



**Polygala**



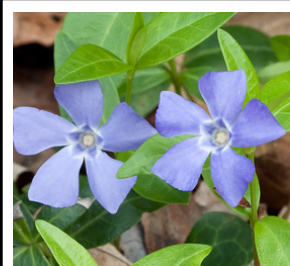
**Blackberry**



**Stick/Stink weed**



**Deadly Nightshade**



**Periwinkle**



# Further up the Creek

From Margaret Sorah

The Friends of Upper Lesmurdie Falls (FOULF) have been rehabilitating the area in the Lesmurdie Falls National Park (and the adjacent Mundy Regional Park) lying above Lesmurdie Falls since late 2012. One of our principal objectives has been to eliminate or control weeds, in particular, perennial weeds. We have achieved high levels of weed control over the entire site but weeds, originating from private properties, located in the 4 km stretch of creek upstream to its source continually re-infest weed free areas. The brook brings weed seed and plant material downstream where they lodge and grow in the silt beds and riparian zone within the two parks. To address this issue FOULF contacted the residents who live along this stretch of the creekline asking if they would be open to FOULF visiting their property and offering advice and guidance on the plants on their properties, especially those near to the creek with the objective of controlling or eliminating weeds that originate from private properties, which divert the FOULF volunteer effort towards weeding rather than improving the Lesmurdie Falls and its surrounds. We selected about a third of the properties in the 1 km stretch above the Falls to take part in a pilot study where FOULF hope, with the help of grants and volunteer efforts to:

1. Provide advice and guidance on weeds and their impact on the environment;
  2. Employ contract labour to spray weeds with herbicide where required;
  3. Help control weeds on resident's properties; and
  4. Revegetate the creek banks with non-invasive plants purchased from appropriate suppliers.
- The focus will be on native plants that do not spread seed or negatively impact the creek – either on the property or further downstream.



***Katrina & Gordon have joined our residents up the creek – with Mike and Margaret.***

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## Some Jewel Beetles of the Perth Hills

Article by Lesley Brooke

While photographing wildflowers, I sometimes come across jewel beetles that I feel compelled to pay attention to, as I feel they are becoming rare in suburbia and they are just too beautiful to ignore. After I have photographed them, I need to put a name to them so that I can file the photographs on my computer. So, I have made contact (through Facebook) with two jewel beetle experts who, without fail, help me to name my discoveries:- these are Allen Sundholm and Mark Hanlon. All the jewel beetles pictured here were identified by these two experts.

Jewel Beetles are wood-boring beetles often with glossy, iridescent elytra (wing covers). They live in forests, woodland and heath, although I have found them easiest to spot in low heathland with flowering shrubs. In the Perth Hills I have found them wherever plants are in flower, from Gooseberry Hill National Park to Lions Lookout, Lesmurdie to the rocky outcrops along the Brookton Highway. The earliest members of the family Buprestidae are known from the Middle Jurassic, around 160 million years ago. The beetles bore into plant roots, logs, and stems to lay their eggs. The adults emerge in spring and summer and are most often associated with flowers of the Myrtaceae.



*Castiarina picta* on flowering *Calytrix glutinosa* at Lions Lookout, Lesmurdie in September 2024.

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*Castiarina picta* on *Verticordia picta* along Mount Dale Road in October 2022.



*Castiarina filiformis* on *Verticordia picta*, Mount Dale Rd, November 2022.





***Castiarina crocicolor* on *Verticordia huegelii*, Gooseberry Hill, October 2017.**



***Castiarina phaeopus* , Brookton Highway, September 2019.**

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*Castiarina phaeopus* on *Pimelea* sp., Mount Dale Rd, September 2023.



*Castiarina simulata* on *Hypocalymma robustum*, Forrestfield, September 2024.

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***Castiarina pallidiventris* on *Melaleuca* sp. Mount Dale Rd., January 2023.**

If you come across a jewel beetle on one of your bushwalks, please photograph it and try to identify it. But, please don't touch it – for if you do, the beetle will invariably “play dead” and promptly fall off the branch. And then you will have lost, not only a photograph, but also the beetle, as you can be certain that you will never find it again. I have done this so many times and have never been able to spot the fallen beetle on the ground, as they are so tiny.

Lesley Brooker, May 2026



# Bits 'n' Bobs

## A greater influence

Some of our committee had the opportunity in late May, as part of National Volunteer Week 2026, to attend a presentation by the Urban Bushland Council WA inc. Co-hosting the event were the Nature Reserves Preservation Group (NRPG Kalamunda) plus several other Friends groups from Shelley through to Armadale. The focus of this presentation was to highlight the work done to protect the Greater Brixton Street Wetlands – part of the proposed Yule Brook Nature Reserve that contains approximately 50% of greater Perth's floral species in just 1% of the region. This space is very important ecologically but what we took away from the event was the importance our work up at Lesmurdie Brook is to the wellbeing of the nature reserve down on the plains. You see, upstream from Yule Brook Nature Reserve is Lesmurdie Falls and Lesmurdie Brook right up to Sing gardens in Walliston at the headwaters of Lesmurdie Brook.

So everything we do in weed control and native vegetation restoration above the falls impacts all the way down Yule Brook, through the Greater Brixton Street wetlands and out to the Canning River. Certainly that lends much more weight to our work than the immediate sphere we influence would suggest.



 [bushlandperth.org.au save-the-greater-brixton-street-wetlands](https://bushlandperth.org.au/save-the-greater-brixton-street-wetlands)

## You're Invited!

Our Annual General Meeting is coming up in August, and we'd love you to be part of it.

Join us for an evening where we look back at what we've achieved together over the past year, hear about exciting plans ahead and elect our committee.

Expect a short formal meeting, plenty of conversation, and a chance to connect with fellow environmental champions.

There may even be drink and nibbles to keep the discussion flowing.

Whether you've been involved for years or have only recently joined us, your voice, ideas, and enthusiasm help shape the future of our group.

### AGM Details

**Date:** Tuesday 18th August 2026

**Time:** 6:30pm

**Venue:** FOULF meeting rooms, 7a Sanderson Rd, Lesmurdie.

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# Trailer on track

Thanks to the kind donation of a trailer, now surplus to requirements, from our busy bee coordinator, Mark Simpson, we now have a trailer specifically modified to our needs.

Said modifications were undertaken by our welding wizard and Vice Chair, Dick who firstly dismantled the old trailer, reduced in width the axle, chassis and cargo area then re-built to the narrower width, replaced the rusted panels and built a frame on top to carry the maximum number of plants possible.

The result, a trailer that can traverse our walking paths within the reserve and carry up to 900 young plants on three levels to planting sites anywhere.

It will also serve as weed transport and for carting gravel for pathway repair.

What a versatile little unit.

Here's a big 'thank you' to Mark for the original donation and to our ingenious Dick who quietly goes about his work conjuring up labour saving devices to make our job so much easier.



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# Looking Forward

From Mike Robinson

At the time of our last Newsletter in February, we were still waiting for the funds from State NRM to hit our account. That came through at the beginning of May and we have now completed our first weed control exercise by engaging NAMS for a full day spraying all the African Feather Grass across our entire project site. Steph, Nick and I have met with NAMS' co-ordinator, Luke, to discuss how best to maximise their part of our program going forward. Based on the advice provided, Steph and I will now work out how best to utilise the funds we have allocated to maximise the impact of future work with them. We will also be using other weed contractors for different aspects of weed control and discussions with them will take place over the next month or two. For most species, the first year will aim for a major reduction in numbers with the following two years consolidating and moving towards local eradication where we can. Paying contractors to search out isolated plants or small groups is not very cost effective and we will deal with as many of those situations as we can with our own wonderful volunteers. We have been doing that with *Watsonia* and a few other species for a few years now with great success.

Mapping weed locations is vital for the success of the weed spraying program and Steph and John are doing great work on that. The first test was the African Feather Grass spraying and both we and the contractors were very pleased with how that went. The fact that they were able to complete the spraying of all the African Feather Grass in a single day is testament to the power of accurate, easy to follow, weed mapping. Steph and John are currently mapping our biggest weed problem – *Freesia* – and that is well advanced. It will eventually go together with maps of other bulbs to form another day or two's spraying. By combining weeds with similar spray timing and herbicide requirements, we get greater efficiency from our contractors. At the moment Steph is shouldering most of the weed location work but we will be bringing more volunteers in to assist (with her guidance) in that work.

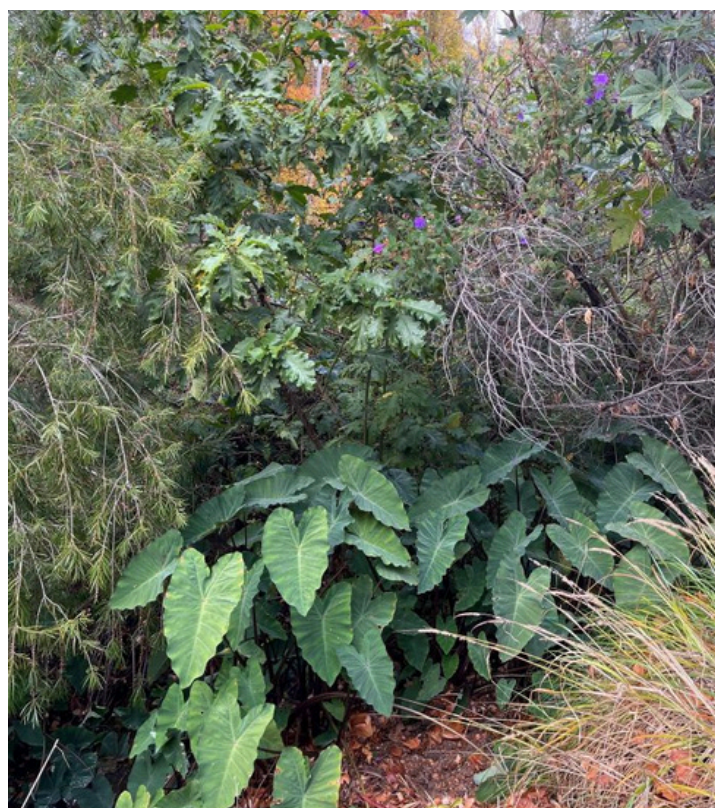
We need to get that underway quickly now that the project is up and running, so if this is something you can help with, please make contact. You don't need anything other than a willingness to help and a mobile telephone. You will be asked to load an app called Avenza, get some brief instructions and then join Steph and others in a delightful wander through the bush. John will then take your "pins" and process them into maps for our contractors. This is vital work for our project, so please give it serious consideration.

The other half of this project is plant propagation - and seed collection to support that. Here again we need more volunteers so we can raise large numbers of local provenance plants. Terry and Carmel co-ordinate a great little group of propagators who achieve amazing results. With a target of 4,000 plants per year, they can use all the help they can get.

Work is continuing on our project to encourage residents living upstream of the park to control (with our help) weeds on their sections of the brook. Margaret has been talking to a number of residents and I have joined her for several more detailed assessments of the size of the weed problem on their properties. The problem varies in complexity considerably from property to property but in all cases so far the reception we have encountered has been wonderful. It is so encouraging to talk to the residents and find they all share our concern for the brook and are keen to help restore it to a more natural and healthy state. Additional properties will be assessed over the coming months and we are optimistic that we can secure funding to help with the efforts by both the residents and ourselves.



One property upstream is a special case due to the large holding and the length of their stream frontage and that is St Brigids College. With roughly 600 metres of Lesmurdie Brook running through the campus it is a vital part of any effort to restore the brook. We are very lucky to have great support from the school, who are really keen to see the restoration work get under way. Due to the lengthy settlement history and the extensive plantings of mainly European trees and shrubs and the incursion of weedy species such as eastern states wattles, blackberry etc, the task of cleaning it up is a large one. Steph, Nick and Margaret are meeting regularly with the school and we now have a Memorandum of Understanding signed with them. Nick and I recently conducted a walk through with approximately 90 year 6 students and teachers to explain why weeds are a problem for stream health and to help them understand what is involved in restoring the brook to better health. The students will incorporate aspects of our project, and their part in it, in their studies over the next few years. As a first step on the weed control side of this project, a group of us (led by Steph) visited the school in late May to have a detailed look at what weedy species are present and to do some preliminary mapping. The brook includes a large dam at the southern end (near Grove Road) and some very steep gully areas. It also hosts a very large and varied weed assortment, so we will now need to apply for funding to enable us to start taking out some of the worst infestations.



***Further up the creek, infestations of Taro, kikuyu and African feathergrass smother the waterway.***

The initial knockdown will need considerable contractor assistance and most of our input, and any input from the students, will come once the initial cleanup is complete.

Margaret, Nick and Steph have also been working with the City of Kalamunda to launch a project on a drain running through Neil Tonkin Park and into Lesmurdie Brook within the St Brigids campus. A Memorandum of Understanding between the City and FOULF is currently being negotiated so that we can undertake work in Neil Tonkin Park. This drain may seem unimportant to our work but it hosts a lot of weeds and the seeds from those reach Lesmurdie Brook and then flow down to the upper Falls area – and beyond.

So the residents project, St Brigids project and Neil Tonkin Park project are all major exercises over the coming years. All require funding to be successful and all will contribute strongly to the health of Lesmurdie Brook. In the next quarter most of our involvement will be restricted to behind the scenes administration tasks associated with getting them off the ground but it is likely that considerable mapping work will be required and a little hands on work.

Back in the park there is still a lot going on.

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On Sunday the 14<sup>th</sup> of June we had our first planting of the season and we will need at least two more before we complete this year's work. The planting on the 14<sup>th</sup> was undertaken on a large bare area behind the houses fronting the Falls Road Spur. It has an uphill, relatively dry section which descends to a winter wet area. Over recent years, the kangaroo population has grown quite considerably and in recent years that has started to impact our planting programs. A few years ago we found that we had to fence out the roos in the Erosion Gully if we wanted any plants to survive. In this new area we are unsure what the impact from kangaroos will be but we decided that we should fence off a 20 by 20 metre plot so we can evaluate the impacts both inside and outside the enclosure. Any impacts are likely to show up very quickly and so additional fencing to enclose an area up to eight times larger – depending on planting density – may be required at fairly short notice.

Our paths are now about 10 years old and requiring maintenance. The rain events of the last two months have featured some very heavy falls over a short period of time and that caused severe runoff on the paths. That has caused some serious erosion on paths that were already needing work. To improve efficiency in getting road base to difficult to reach sections of the park, Dick has reconfigured an old trailer to a narrower profile that will fit comfortably on the narrow paths. So instead of multiple trips with a single bucket load each time, we can now get a decent amount of material to the work site each time. So once the planting program is complete (hopefully around mid-July) our major priority will probably need to be path repairs. The other major project happening at our project site doesn't involve us in any real work but stands to make a big impact. The City Of Kalamunda is installing additional parking along the southern side of Falls Road between the Falls Road Spur in the east and the Weir Car Park in the west. This should greatly reduce the frustration experienced by visitors fruitlessly trying to find a legal parking spot and residents' frustration with vehicles parking illegally when they can't see an alternative. An additional benefit for us of this work is that they will use the earthmoving equipment they have on site to help us with two small projects. The first is dropping some large rocks (supplied by the City) into the deep erosion carved out on the brook just below the Weir Car park. The other depends on DBCA approval once we have submitted a detailed plan. It is a proposal to level part of the bare area below the Terraces Car Park so that we can create an additional picnic area for visitors. If approval is obtained before the contractors complete their work, then they have offered to assist us with the initial levelling. So I think you can see that we have a lot on our plates coming into winter and we need your help more than ever. We hope to see you all at as many Busy Bees as you can manage. They are the second Sunday of every month, so log them in your calendars and we look forward to seeing you there.

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# SPONSORS

Once again we would like to express our deep gratitude to our major sponsors, State NRM, Perth Region NRM, the Rivers and Estuaries section of DBCA, the Rotary Club of Kalamunda, the City of Kalamunda, Lotterywest, Forrestfield and High Wycombe Community Bank (Bendigo Bank), SG Enviro, Tree and Palm Solutions and Magic Garden Supplies.

Our project is located within the Lesmurdie National Park and Mundy Regional Park, which come under the control of the Parks and Wildlife section of the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions. The Department was the catalyst for our formation in 2012 and has strongly supported us ever since. We really value that support and particularly the trust that they have shown in us for the last 12 years.

The Lesmurdie and Districts Community Association (LDCA) was a wonderful partner for many years and enabled us to raise considerable funding for improvements that weren't covered by the NRM grants. Paths, bridges, earthworks, car parks, children's climbing frames and more – the Up the Creek (UTC) project.

The Kalamunda Men's Shed partnered with us to build shade houses where we could raise our own plants and where we could hold plants grown for us by nurseries – prior to planting out. We greatly value our association with KMS and hope it will continue and deepen for many years. More recently they have also helped us acquire two green houses to further enhance our plant propagation work. Recently, we formed a partnership with the Kalamunda Youth Swing Band, sharing their premises to foster collaboration and community engagement.



*If you are keen to know more about  
Kalamunda Mens Shed phone 08 9291 7172  
on weekdays between 8am and noon.*



# ABOUT US

Formed in Dec 2012 by a few like-minded people, the Friends of Upper Lesmurdie Falls Inc. have committed themselves to helping to rehabilitate, improve the amenity and record the history of the area – which initially was badly degraded by large infestations of weeds that had taken over and suffocated the native flora.

## BUSY BEES

Busy bees mornings are held on the 2nd Sunday of every month - tackling weeding, stone work, propagating, planting, rubbish clearing, exotic tree removal and maintenance work. We make sure there is always something for all ages and abilities.

Everyone is always very welcome to join in - no experience or tools needed.

*Want a fun morning at a busy bee for you or your family? Contact us to find out the details.*



*And we always finish with a well catered morning tea thanks to Angie Parker!*

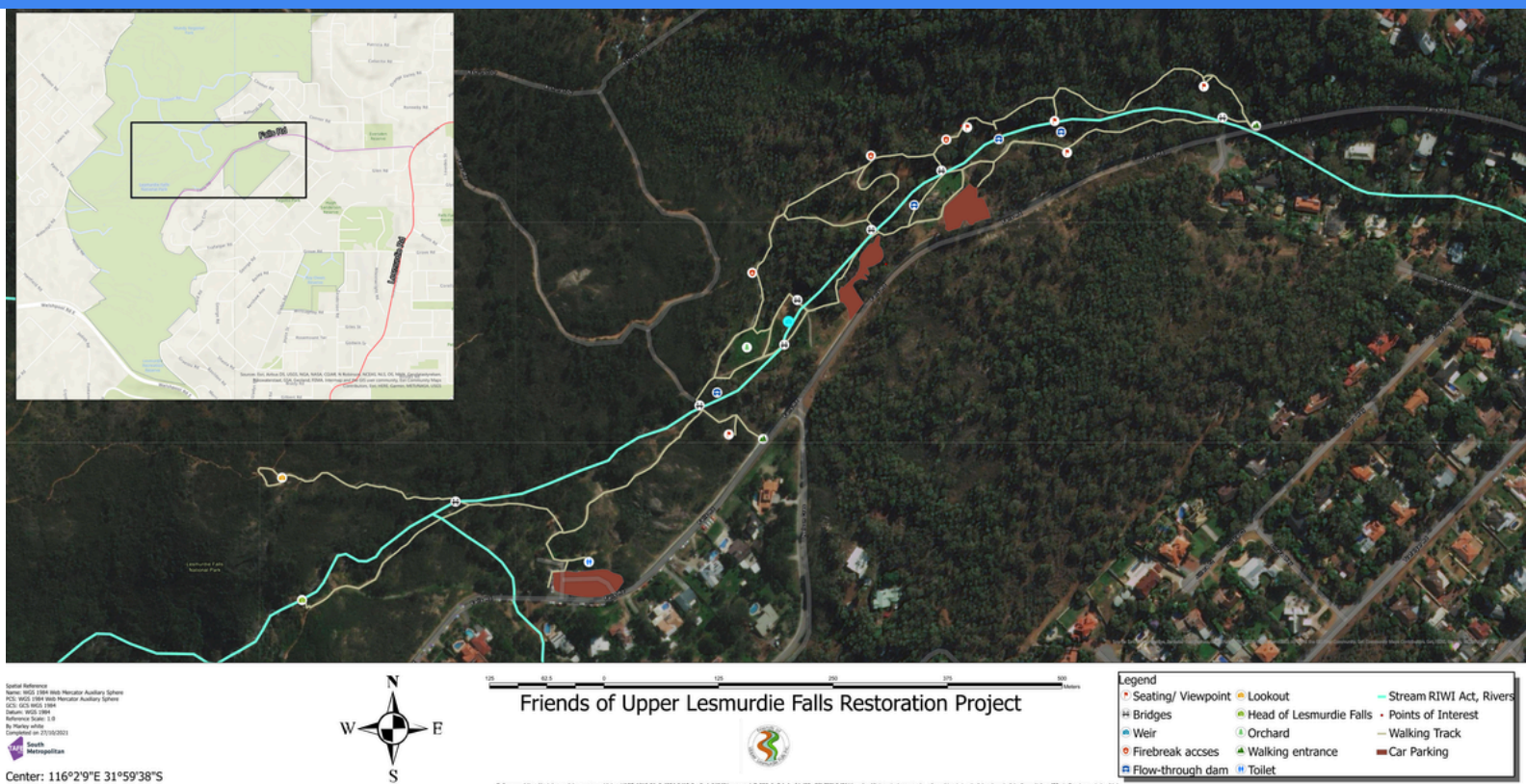
## CONTACT US



- Any enquiry phone: **Nick 0409 100 681** or email: **friendsofupperlesmurdiefalls@gmail.com**
- For latest events: Facebook and Instagram @friendsofupperlesmurdiefalls

More info visit our website: [www.friendsofupperlesmurdiefalls.com.au](http://www.friendsofupperlesmurdiefalls.com.au)

## MAP- LESMURDIE BROOK TRAILS AND FEATURES



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