

## Coordinator's Annual Report 2021-2022

*Kaya. We acknowledge the traditional owners of this land on which we meet, the Wadandi-Pibelmun people, and we accept that they have never ceded sovereignty. We pay our respects to their elders past and present.*

2021 will go down in history as the Year We Stopped the Logging. Finally. September 8, 2021. MRREC (and latterly, the Nannas) played a big part in achieving this win. Thank you to everyone who, over the 40 odd years that this battle was fought, did their bit to help (and who continue to work to protect forests from other threats: mining, thinning, biomass collection and regular prescribed burns).

2022 has been largely about the SHED.

At the end of last year, we were approached by several groups wanting to share our space here. Precious Plastics proposed moving their operations onto the site; the Montessori School put feelers out to access the shed and Community Garden as virtual classrooms for their high school programme; Nature Conservation asked if they could construct a demonstration wetland garden at the edge of the site and the Community Pantry came seeking premises from which to operate their food redistribution programme.

After much deliberation, we decided that the Community Pantry would be the best fit for us and the site as a co/sub-tenant and they opened here in June.

We were informed shortly after this by the Shire that they would not support any renovation of the Goods Shed due to budget constraints. This has meant a complete change of plan for the site and we are in the process of redesigning the spaces to suit in collaboration with the Pantry.

Discussions are ongoing with Montessori, and Nature Conservation has constructed the "frog bog" part of their garden already with more work to be done on pathways and plantings over the coming months.

### **MRREC in the community:**

We are represented on the following community groups:

- Nannas for Native Forests
- WA Forest Alliance (Dr. Carole Peters will continue in this role – thank you Carole).
- Community Pantry
- Margaret River Collaborative Management Group (Ray Swarts has replaced Peta Goodwin).

- Preserve Gnarabup

We have completed submissions on:

- the Scarborough Gas Project
- the Draft Native Vegetation Policy
- the Gnarabup development.

We supported the Friends of the Gelorup Corridor by allowing them to use our logo on their campaign material and with a \$200 donation towards their legal fees.

We raised \$3000 for Preserve Gnarabup with a huge raffle.

We lodged objections to Rio Tinto's mining exploration 9 lease applications in the Northern Jarrah Forests but subsequently withdrew them on advice from the Wafa legal team. We will not be objecting to their latest applications because of the possibility of crippling court costs.

We sent letters to the Minister for Mines (Bill Johnston) re the process for lodging objections (tortuous!) and campaigned successfully for the Shire to take on the responsibility for receiving notifications of lease applications in the Shire and for objecting to them if necessary. We felt this was important as the number of applications is likely to increase due to state and federal positioning of Australia as the future supplier of rare minerals to the world for renewables and we as a group are not resourced to deal with them.

The following very successful workshops were held at the Shed:

- Wicking Bed Design and Construction (Nature Cons/MR Organic Farm)
- Native Bee and Insect Gardens (Nature Cons/MR Organic Farm)
- Growing in Containers (Gerry Clarke/Just Home)
- Weed Foraging (Nirala Hunt/Just Home)

### **Sub-group Reports:**

#### **Community Garden (report from Sally Wylie):**

The garden has continued to grow with additions to the Bush Food Garden. This was the special project of Chris Berrill who would visit even when in the late stages of her cancer. We now have a plaque on the wall in memory of her, and Alex, her husband, continues to visit the garden and help us out with projects, like removing the poles of the pergola, which had rotted at ground level.

Losing the pergola was a setback for the garden but it will be renewed later in the year with something more sustainable. The climbers have been cut back to ground level but will regrow - we hope.

The additional work being done by Peta Lierich from Nature Conservation to build a native demonstration garden and frog bog will expand the garden's appeal and its relevance.

The garden received a grant from Lions to build a fenced area where we will be able to store materials without fear of them being stolen. This is still in the planning stages.

### **Bush Regeneration (report from Tracy Skippings)**

We have worked consistently on our bushland site removing weeds the main ones being Rye Grass, Watsonia, Genista, Oxalis, Tambooki Grass, winter weeds (and more). The worst weeds are Wavy Gladioli, besides Kikuyu which we struggle to control. We are pleased with the success of native plant seedlings over the last few winters and currently the wattles, chorizemas, banksias and a variety of others are doing well establishing and filling gaps in the bush. We meet with the Nguraren Kalleep Reserve group weekly and plan to have a contemplative memorial seat installed in memory of Ann Austin who spent so many years supervising MRREC volunteers. We are pleased that Nature Conservation MRR will be continuing to develop the demonstration native garden adjacent to our bushland. This will assist with control and diversity for our small patch.

### **Nannas for Native Forests (report from Peta Goodwin)**

The Nannas were very busy during the time between the announcement of the WA Forest Survey in August and the announcement (in September) that logging would end in the state in December 2023.

We ran a series of information stalls over the month, encouraging people to fill in the survey and helping with information, as well as making a short movie explaining why it was so important to let the government know that we want our forests protected. These 2 actions alone accounted for more completed surveys than most of the other actions taken, according to WAFA data.

A small group of Nannas then lobbied hard for better outcomes in the next Forest Management Plan, and were represented in one of the Working Groups by Ray Swarts.

The draft FMP will be revealed later this month, so we may shortly be back out on the streets encouraging the community to comment.

### **Report from our representative on WAFA Committee (Dr Carole Peters):**

As follow up to the *Fire and Biodiversity* Forum (FaB Forum) held at the Margaret River HEART in June 2021, supported by 10 sponsor groups, (WAFA, DEC MRREC being the major sponsors) the expert presentations and videos are listed online at:  
[vimeo.com/channels/fabforum](https://vimeo.com/channels/fabforum)

FaB Forum Convenor Dr Carole Peters worked with Dr Danny Jennings of Black Jar Digital Media (using technical recordings, and images from PaperScout Graphic Design) for the collation and presentation of this professional resource which includes the expert presentations from peer reviewed scientists and practitioners, and relevant videos as presented at the second day workshop. Useful for educational purposes on the very hot topic of fire.

A petition launched at the FaB Forum by FaBWA (previously the Denmark Fire Study Group) lead to the call for a Review of DBCA prescribed burning policy and practices. The evidence to back this call for review has recently been presented to a parliamentary Standing Committee with significant input from the scientists and practitioners who presented at the FaB Forum.

Any questions regarding fire, (including prescribed burning in our SW forests) and/or the FaB Forum can be directed to Carole at [fabforum21@gmail.com](mailto:fabforum21@gmail.com)

I would like to finish by remembering our dear friend and long-time fellow member, Chris Berrill, who died recently. We miss her gentle presence very much, so it is lovely to have her partner Alex spending more time at the shed and helping out with the right tools for the job!

Thank-you to the committee for their work this year and for their ongoing commitment. Thank you especially to Tracy for her secretarial labours, Hamish for his in the treasury department and to Gerry for keeping up our social media presence with some great posts.

I would like to welcome the Community Pantry to our site and look forward to working with you all.

Thank you also to all our members for your continuing support.

Peta Goodwin

Coordinator

16 October 2022.

