



The Kensington Bushland is a relatively level area of Bassendean Sand. Main vegetation types include Jarrah (*Eucalyptus marginata*), Sheoak (*Allocasuarina* sp.), Woollybush (*Adenanthos cygnorum*), and three types of Banksia which provide nectar for pollinating birds (e.g. Red Wattlebird). Vegetation of the large open areas includes small shrubs such as Swan River Myrtle (*Hypocalymma robustum*) and Yellow Buttercups (*Hibbertia hypericoides*). The Bushland is also home to many smaller flowers, 19 different orchid species, including spider varieties, Greenhoods and Sun Orchids.

LANDSCAPE

MANAGING THE BUSHLAND

The 2003 Management Plan incorporates all areas of remnant vegetation within the Town of Victoria Park, of which the Kensington Bushland is the largest and most significant component.

The plan addresses issues such as

- ✿ weed control
- ✿ rehabilitation of degraded areas
- ✿ fencing
- ✿ fire management
- ✿ access

A fire in February 2003 severely burned a large area of bushland. This had a significant effect on the reptiles, insects and birds which inhabit this area, as well as the vegetation.

Fencing of the central area was undertaken to prevent damage to regenerating plants and new seedlings. The fire also stimulated the growth of many weeds, including the bright pink Gladioli (*Gladiolus caryophyllaceus*) which will need to be controlled to prevent further damage to the fire affected area. Observations since the fire show that

a number of native vegetation species are now re-establishing themselves.



HOW YOU CAN HELP

The Friends of Kensington Bushland group and the Town of Victoria Park Community Environmental Advisory Committee (CEAC) are both very active in promoting the successful management of the Bushland.

Local residents and users of the reserve can help preserve the area's heritage by:

- ✿ attending CEAC meetings
- ✿ joining the Friends group activities – weeding, walks, childrens activities
- ✿ observing and learning about the bushland
- ✿ keeping to the designated paths
- ✿ reporting misuse or vandalism
- ✿ keeping dogs on leads
- ✿ reporting fire immediately (dial 000)

FRIENDS OF KENSINGTON BUSHLAND

The Friends group was begun in 1999 and is represented on the Town of Victoria Park CEAC committee.

The Friends group meets on the second Tuesday of each month at the Victoria Park Centre for the Arts at 12 Kent Street, East Victoria Park. For further details contact the Friends Group Co-ordinator, Gwynth Schlipalius, on 9361 8674.

The Friends of Kensington Bushland would like to thank the Town of Victoria Park for the funding required to produce & publish this brochure.



TOWN OF VICTORIA PARK

HISTORY

Indigenous people are sure to have used this area, which contains the Firewood Banksia (*Banksia menziesii*), the Pearl Flowers for making necklaces and water tubers of the Greenhood Orchids an acknowledged "bush tucker". It is also thought that early European settlers used the bushland as a source of timber. As sections of this once large bushland area were excised for schools and other purposes, the remaining bushland was reduced to its present size. The City of Perth Kensington Bushland Management Group was established in 1991, which lapsed with the establishment of the Town of Victoria Park.



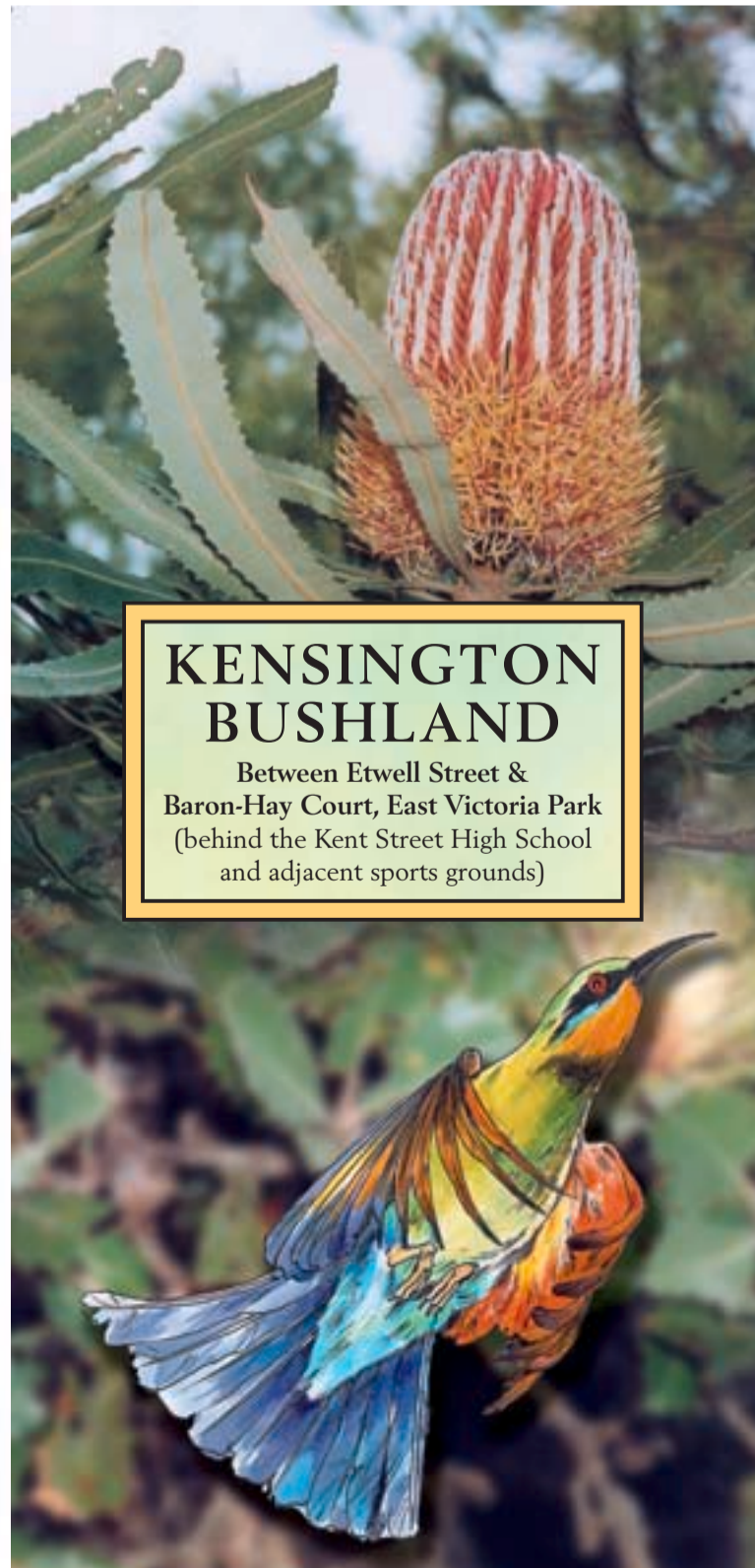
Kensington Bushland is an area of Jarrah-Banksia Woodland of approximately 9 hectares, with access from Etwell Street and Baron-Hay Court (formerly Jarrah Road). It is abutted by the Kensington Sandpit (now closed to sand extraction), Kensington Police & Citizens Youth Club, playing fields and other sites such as the Kensington Secondary School. It is a "Bush Forever" site, managed by the Town of Victoria Park for conservation, passive recreation and education. It acts as a 'living laboratory' for studies by scientists, schools and amateur groups.

INTRODUCTION

For the most part, the bushland is in good to excellent condition, warranting its ongoing care, protection and preservation for current and future generations.



The present Friends group was formed in 1999, followed by the Town of Victoria Park Environmental Liaison Advisory Group (ELAG) in 2001 (now called Community Environmental Advisory Committee – CEAC). Significant conservation activities have included fencing of some paths to deter the use of damaging 'goat tracks', establishment of an attractive entry area, weeding programmes and local species plantings.



KENSINGTON BUSHLAND
Between Etwell Street & Baron-Hay Court, East Victoria Park (behind the Kent Street High School and adjacent sports grounds)



VEGETATION

Kensington Bushland is a typical Jarrah-Banksia woodland. The major tree species are *Eucalyptus marginata*, *Eucalyptus todtiana*, *Banksia menzeisii*, *Banksia attenuata* and *Banksia ilicifolia*. There is also a beautiful stand of *Nuytsia floribunda* and scattered *Allocasuarina fraseriana*.

Nineteen species of orchids grow here, many discovered by members of the Friends group. These include a number of Spider Orchids, Cowslip and Donkey Orchids, Bee Orchids, Greenhoods and Blue Sun Orchids, which are common.



WILDLIFE

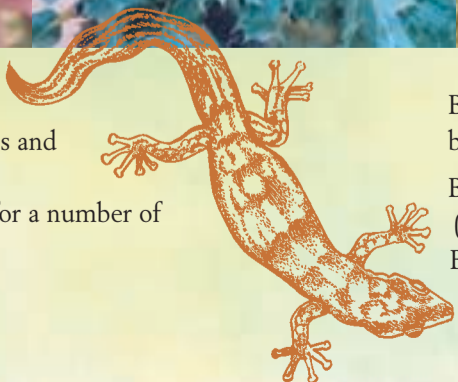
Wattle Birds, Butcher Birds, Magpie larks and several species of honeyeater are commonly seen enjoying the thickets of Woollybush and trees.

Dugites have been seen, as well as Blue Tongue and other Skinks, Little Dragon Lizards, the Small Spotted Gecko and the rare Slender Legless Lizard which inhabit this special place.

A very beautiful bird is the migrating Rainbow Bee-Eater, which nests in the walls of the nearby sandpit and also the sandy tracks of the Kensington Bushland. These have been observed removing the stings from bees before consuming them. Overhead, hovering birds of prey such as the



Spring brings displays of Prickly Moses, Native Irises and Swan River Myrtle. These provide food and habitat for a number of insect and bird species.



Black Shouldered Kite and the Brown Goshawk may be seen looking for food.

Black Cockatoos, including the Carnaby's Cockatoo (Declared Threatened Fauna) enjoy removing the Banksia flowers to eat beetle larvae. From time to time, Black Faced Cuckoo Shrikes can be observed completely taking over a tree.

IMPORTANCE

There is no other remnant vegetation area of this size available to 'near city' inhabitants. It offers an escape from suburban life – entering a tranquil bushland setting free from the noise of traffic and other sounds of suburbia. Children delight in the discovery of a natural wonderland, with potential for new discoveries around every corner.

EVENTS

In addition to planting and weeding days, the Friends of Kensington Bushland also conduct special guided bushwalks in spring and early summer, where knowledgeable people are on hand to help identify many of the species on display.

From time to time, other events such as an indigenous discovery walk and special interest group activities take place.

Particular events for children are the special "kids only" activities, also undertaken in spring.

For further information on walks and other planned activities, please contact the Friends of Kensington Bushland Co-ordinator on 9361 8674.