Leaves of the Hare Orchid (*Leporella fimbriata)* found in the Kensington Bushland for the first time in August 2025. Photo © Harley-Rose Taylor

Friends of Jirdarup Bushland Inc.

Annual Report 2025-26

Friends of Jirdarup Bushland recognise and respect the Traditional Custodians of the Jirdarup Bushland Precinct, the Wadjak people of the Nyoongar nation, and their connection to the lands, waters and skies.

ISSN 3083-4716

About

Jirdarup Bushland Precinct

Jirdarup Bushland Precinct is Wadjak Nyoongar Boodjar. It comprises 18 hectares, the remainder of a larger area vested in the Town of Victoria Park in July 1912 for community use.

It includes:

- Kensington Bushland, a rare slice of banksia woodlands and a Bush Forever site since 2000
- The revegetated George St Reserve
- The Kent St Sandpit where restoration has begun
- A small area of degraded bushland to the rear of the Police and Community Youth Centre added in May 2025.

The area is now formally known as Reserve 7682.

Friends of Jirdarup Bushland Inc.

We are a community group dedicated to the protection, preservation and promotion of the Jirdarup Bushland Precinct. Our group was established in 1999 as the Friends of Kensington Bushland. We have been a charity registered with the ACNC since 12 February 2023 and an incorporated body registered in WA since 11 November 2023, operating solely on a volunteer basis.

Membership of Friends of Jirdarup Inc. includes all Management Committee and sub-committee members, and a small number of volunteers who contribute to key projects. It is renewable annually. At 30 June 2026, there were 14 members. There is no membership fee.

As part of our Annual General Meeting in October 2026, we will be convening our Pipeline 2112, an annual meeting of interested people who will support the current committee in long term planning and intergenerational knowledge transfer.

From the chair

The last 12 months have been very busy for the Friends of Jirdarup.

We have been reaching out to the next generation of leaders to build a “Pipeline 2112,” to provide input to our long-term direction and ensure intergeneration knowledge transfer. Pipeline 2112 recognises that this land was set aside for community use in July 1912.

Our group has continued to organise events and publications for the wider community to educate, engage and enjoy. Our third book, Orchids of Jirdarup, released in August 2026 brought together historical observations with new discoveries.

We have also been getting our hands dirty in the bushland, including planting days and handweeding, underpinned by grant funding and the work of our wonderful volunteers. A condition report of the Kensington Bushland being undertaken by the Wildflower Society of Western Australia is nearing completion. This will be the first comprehensive update since the 1990s. Through this work we have been excited to share the discovery of more plant species and now have evidence of quenda calling Jirdarup home!

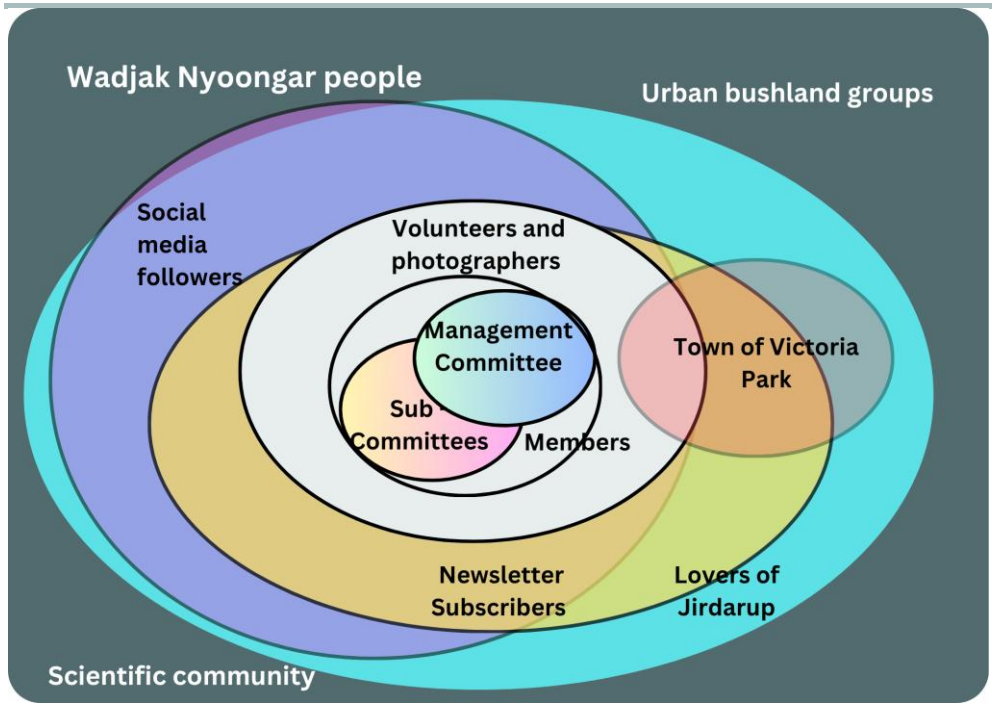
Alison Luobikis commenced as Chief Operating Officer at the Town of Victoria Park last year and has given her time generously to understand the work of our group. We look forward to continuing to engage with the Town of Victoria Park, and strengthening our relationship with the City of South Perth.

I would like to extend my thanks to Helen Carter for her time as Chair. Helen stepped down from this position earlier this year but remains an essential member of the management committee. We welcomed Peter Devereux to the committee. Finally, thank you to all committee members and volunteers who make the group what it is, and the wider public who attend our events, and appreciate and advocate for Jirdarup and its protection in so many ways.

Harley-Rose Taylor, Deputy Chair

October 2026

Our community



Taking account of active volunteers, attendees at events, casual visitors to the bushland and social media followers, we estimate that over 3000 people support the Jirdarup Bushland every year in many ways.

At the end of 2025, we held a morning tea to reflect on the year and celebrate the contribution of our volunteers. This event was sponsored by the Department for Communities.

Our activities are informed by members, the local Wadjak Nyoongar people and the wider urban bushland and scientific communities.

Mission and action

Mission

- The preservation of Jirdarup Bushland Precinct and the promotion of its importance in the community.

Action areas

- **Advocacy:** For the preservation and protection of the Jirdarup Bushland Precinct.
- **Landcare**: Ensure the 'Bush Forever' site of the Precinct is maintained and preserved and work towards ecological restoration and protection of flora and fauna in adjacent areas.
- **Community Education and Engagement**: Increase community awareness of the value of Jirdarup Bushland Precinct, including its Indigenous heritage.

© Lesley Newport

Achievements

Advocacy

- We have continued to seek information on development on the site of the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development.
- The restoration of the Kent St Sandpit continues to be a priority and we were delighted to see 8,500 seedlings planted in May 2026. While we are disappointed that the earthworks have not commenced, we appreciate the complexities of this project. We also contributed to Curtin University's podcast on the restoration of the sandpit.
- We have outlined our case to the Town of Victoria Park for a more holistic approach to the infrastructure planning for the precinct to be incorporated in the Jirdarup Bushland Management Plan. This includes consideration of a previous recommendation for a small education centre in the Precinct.
- Following our submission in July 2025, the Town has included tree 112228, a *Eucalyptus todtiana* (dwooda in the Nyoongar language), on the Significant Tree Register in recognition of its age (estimated at least 340 years by Curtin University).

Achievements ...

Landcare

Handweeding continued for another year supported by funds from a State NRM grant to support a partnership with the Town and Aboriginal Landcare. Total hours were lower in 2025 than the previous year, due mainly to a late start. Weeding recommenced on 20 June 2026. Curtin volunteer students continue to contribute. Following concerns about some tree deaths in the weeding area, a report was commissioned by the Town to investigate the possibility of *Phytophthora cinnamomi* dieback. None was detected there but *P. boodjera* was found on a dead banksia near the PCYC.

We successfully bid for a grant from the BUPA Healthy Cities Landcare program to work with the Town to plant along Baron-Hay Court to increase protection of the bushland from the development across the road. Three thousand seedlings in all were planted, including 700 in the Kensington Bushland in June 2025. Friends will water the seedlings in the bushland over the coming summers.

A 2025 grant from the State Government has been used to engage the Wildflower Society of Western Australia (WSWA) to undertake a condition report for the Kensington Bushland. The report due at the end of 2026 will:

- include a comprehensive species list
- confirm if there are any Priority or Rare Flora
- use the Keighery model for the condition assessment
- include information on the condition of the Threatened Ecological Community

During the 2025 Landcare program, Friends were delighted to find a patch of hare orchid leaves (*Leporella fimbriata*) for the first time. The leaves reappeared in June 2026 but have yet to be seen in flower.

Rabbit control was undertaken by the Town releasing the RHDV1-K5 virus in April and destroying warrens. During follow up in June 2026, sightings of "possible quenda" were finally confirmed by the contractors. Several visitors to the bushland also reported seeing them on the paths. In the previous year, weeders had seen what they thought were quenda scratchings.

Achievements ...

Community Education and Engagement

We aim to hold at least two education events each year and maintain a presence at community events, including at least one partnership with the Town of Victoria Park.

Events (attendees)

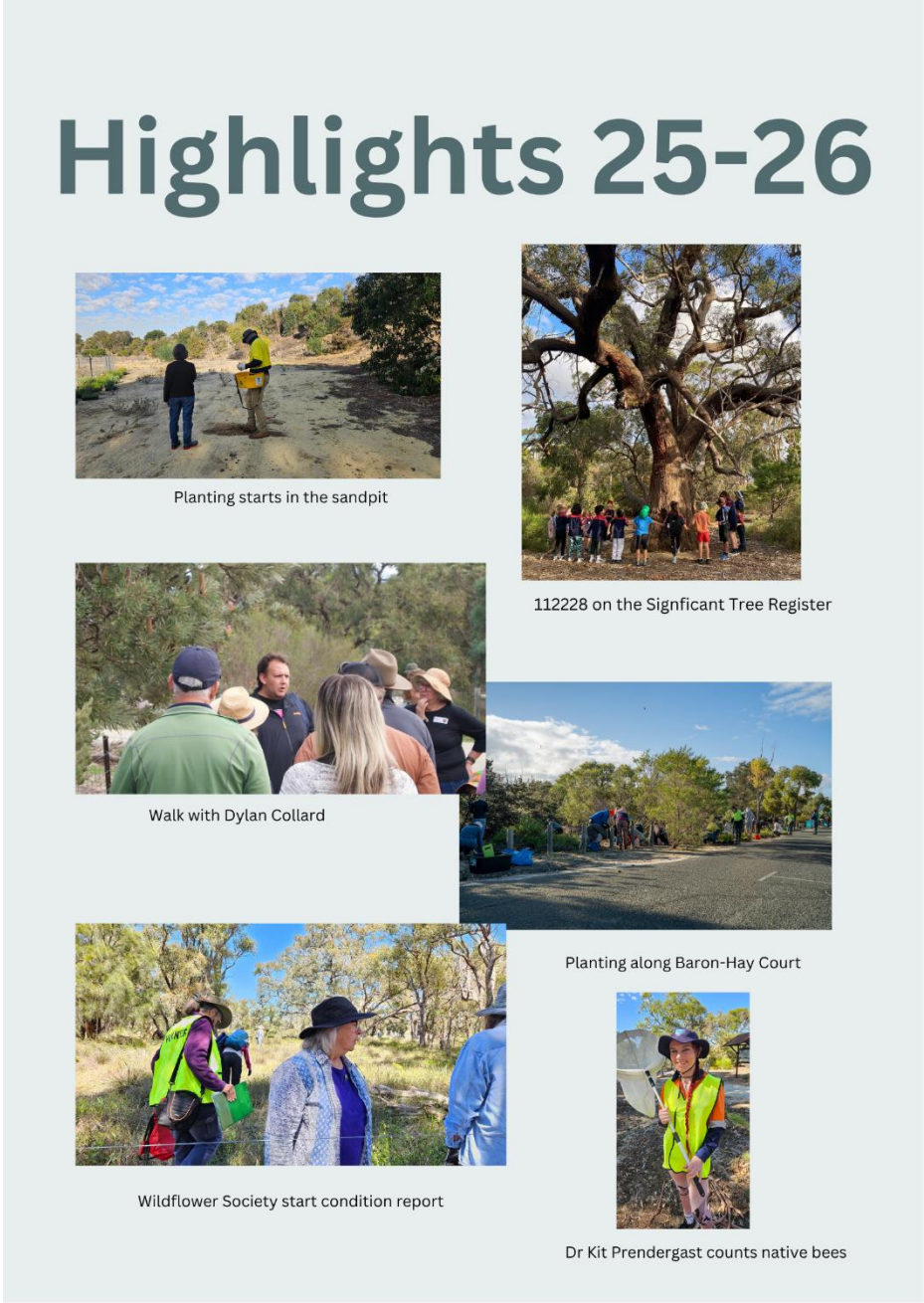
- Walk with Friends x 5 (35)
- Babijt: Bats in our bushland with Ry Beaver (9 August 2025, 50)
- Jirdarup 2112 Climate Change Event (7 November 2025, 30)
- Canning Sea Scouts (26 November, 25)
- End of year volunteer celebration (7 December, 40)
- Meet eDNA with Prof Paul Nevill (8 March 2026, 41)
- Dylan Collard @ Jirdarup (16 May 2026, 53)
- Community Planting day (14 June 2026, 87)

Resources produced

- Newsletters: 7 (monthly from January 2026)
- Updated website regularly, including inventories of flora and fauna in the bushland.

Promotion and outreach

- Hawaiian's Park Shopping Centre July 2025
- Town of Victoria Park Youth Art Award sponsorship October 2025
- Millen Primary School November 2025. Their stories of Tree 11228 (Old Todt) were published on our website
- WA Museum Citizen Science 9 May 2026
- Vic Park Rotary Markets 24 May 2026



Operations ...

The management committee oversees the day-to-day operations of the Friends which functions solely on the work of volunteers.

Finance

Excluding project grants, our net income for 2025/26 was mainly from sales of our books and other donations. All donations received from 1 December 2024 to 30 November 2025 were put towards a memorial for Gwynth Schlipalius, our late founder. The total amount donated was $2,740 which has been set aside until the memorial is finalised.

Over the year to 30 June 2026, grants included:

- $5,000 from Wettenhall Trust towards the publication: *Orchids of Jirdarup*
- $700 from WA Landcare towards *Orchids of Jirdarup*
- $10,000 from the WA Government for Kensington Bushland Condition Report by the Wildflower Society of WA.
- $440 from Department of Communities for International Volunteer Day
- $4.000 from Community Underwriting towards our community education program. This grant supported a NAIDOC Week Walk with Dylan Collard and a Native Bee survey by Dr Kit Prendergast to be conducted over a 12-month period.
- $11,000 BUPA Healthy Cities Landcare Grant for planting along Baron-Hay Court

Our GST is reported annually, as such it is included in our balance sheet to ensure any liability that accrues is transparent.

Containers for Change donations for the year totalled 1,604 units, bringing the total number of containers saved from landfill through donations to the Friends of Jirdarup Bushland to 17,557.

Balance sheet 2025-2026

Assets and liabilities	Actuals $ 2024-25	Actuals $ 2025-26
Current Assets		
Cash at Bank	35,392	46697
Sales Stock	2934	2032
GST refund	-2175	-134
Subtotal	36152	48595
Non-current Assets		
Equipment	-	-
Trade and other receivables	-	-
Sub-total	-	-
Total Assets	**36152**	**48595**
Liability		
Unexpended grants	25070	38233
Other	518	2740
Total Liability	**25588**	**40973**
Net Assets	**10563**	**7622**

Risk management

- Key decisions are documented through our Management Committee minutes.
- All committee members are expected to be familiar with our Committee Charter.
- We hold public liability and voluntary workers insurance.

Operations ...

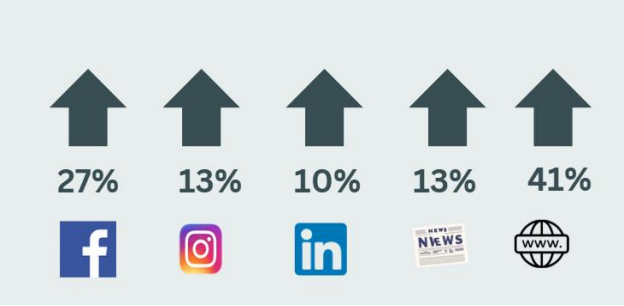
Communications

Our key lines of communication are:

- Social media, through Facebook, Instagram and LinkedIn.
- Our newsletter was transferred from Mailchimp to Substack and is now issued monthly. In the process, a number of inactive subscribers cancelled.
- Regular meetings with key staff of the Town of Victoria Park.
- Informal interactions in the bushland and at events.
- We are members of the South-East Regional Centre for Urban Landcare (SERCUL), the Urban Bushland Council, Perth NRM and the WA Landcare Network.

Our website was successfully transferred to a new host and our email system to Google office. After some initial challenges, this decision has saved money and provides a more effective long-term system. Streamlining our website is also allowing us to improve its carbon rating.

Growth in audiences



	Facebook	Instagram	LinkedIn	Newsletter	Website
	Followers	Followers	Followers	Subscribers	Active users June
30 Jun 25	1802	515	160	440	284
30 June 26	2286	581	176	495	402
% Change 25/26	26.9%	12.6%	10.0%	12.5%	41.5%

Key personnel

Management Committee (@30 June 2026)

- Harley-Rose Taylor — Deputy Chair. A/Chair from 7 March 2026
- Emily Harvey — Treasurer
- Lesley van Schoubroeck — Secretary
- Helen Carter — Committee Member
  - (Chair to 7 March 2026)
- Amanda Morcom — Committee Member
- Tim Grubba — Committee Member (from 9 Aug 2025)
- Peter Devereux — Committee Member (from 7 Nov 2025)

Community Education and Engagement sub-committee

- Lesley van Schoubroeck (lead)
- Helen Carter
- Amanda Morcom

The previous Landcare sub-committee was replaced by a Hand-weeding project team during the year. The intent was to strengthen focus on this major funded project and to share responsibility for other Landcare activities across the full Management Committee. Emily Harvey has lead responsibility for this project.

Thanks to our supporters and partners in 2025-26

For more information, visit our website https://friendsofjirdarupbushland.org.au

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SCAN ME

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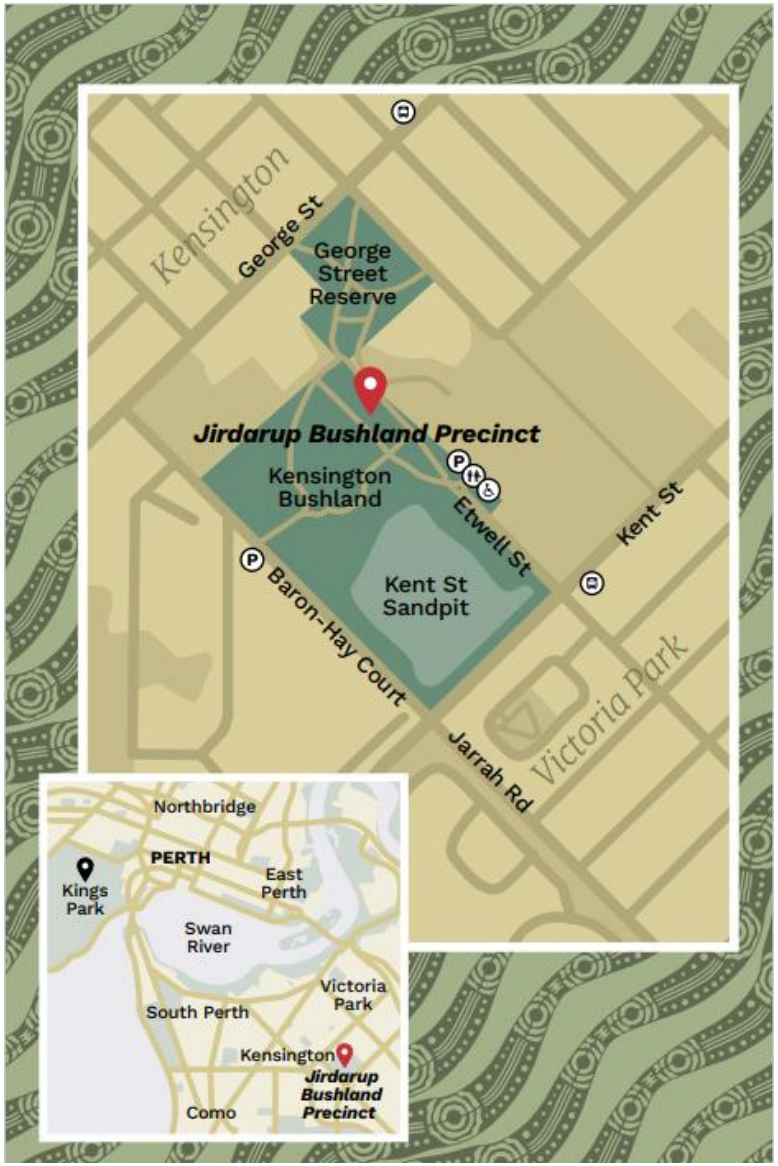

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ISSN 3083-4716