



If you have any questions on any of the information provided or would like further information, please contact [sherry.thomas@ntwa.com.au](mailto:sherry.thomas@ntwa.com.au)

Where is the year going? March already! How did that happen? Just so you know – you didn't miss a February newsletter; the month escaped me, so my apologies, but I didn't get one done.

**Rainbow Bee Eaters** are having a feast at present as I look out my window. They swoop and dive with aerobatic precision and such beauty as they snatch an insect from the air. Though the honey bee is introduced, the Rainbow Bee Eaters long ago discovered this wonderful, often abundant food



Photo by **Lyndon Edwards** of Wellesley (National Trust covenantee)

source and worked out how to make it edible (native bees are stingless). If the insect has a sting (like a honey bee or wasp), the Rainbow Bee Eaters takes it back to a tree where they bash the insect on a branch until the sting or venom sack is knocked off. They nest in long narrow tunnels in the ground, often in the side of embankments, sometimes appearing to fly straight into the ground! Surely one of our most beautiful birds with their magnificent turquoise, green and orange colouring. Please let me know if you see any at Parkwater.

**Revegetation projects.** There are a couple of wonderful families about to take on revegetation of a plot of National Trust land beside their homes. Nairn and Pauline of Daisy Rise, and the Price family of Wandoo Place will begin planting local native species after the first rains have had a chance to soak in.



*Nairn & Pauline standing on the area which will one day be a thriving mass of native vegetation and habitat to local wildlife!!*

They have kindly agreed that we may follow their progress and the successes and (hopefully not too many) failures, so that we can all learn what works, and not all make the same mistakes! Both are damp areas for some of the year, but dry out in summer, so will present some challenges. Here are the 'before' photos. Nairn & Pauline are beside the first (eastern) small dam and the Price's will plant the long, narrow strip between their house and the footpath, along Sunset Drive. Good luck to them and thanks for sharing the adventure!



*The Price Patch*

## Parkwater Residents Association

At the meeting on 18<sup>th</sup> February, after a background history of the previous residents group kindly provided by David Groves, and an explanation on the operation of the Cowaramup Halls, Reserves and Residents Assoc from Neil Earl (President), it was agreed to continue where the previous group left off – namely, in coming under the umbrella of the Cowaramup Halls, Reserves and Residents Assoc . Minutes of the meeting will be emailed separately to this newsletter. A small core group generously put up their hands to be your committee, but they will need support to progress any plans as they arise, and of course, the more people who attend meetings, the greater the diversity of ideas. If you would like to have your say on the management of the National Trust bushland, including the walk/cycle trail, as well as any other matters pertaining to Parkwater, then please come along to the next meeting at **Duggan Pavillion, Cowaramup on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> March, 2015 at 7.30pm.**

## 2015 Great Cocky Count Sunday 12 April at sunset



Reminder: The Great Cocky Count is an annual citizen science survey that aims to count as many Carnaby's Black-Cockatoos as possible across WA on a single night. As a volunteer you simply go to the roost location BirdLife allocate to you and count all the cockatoos flying into their night-time

roosting trees. The survey only takes an hour. For more information and to register as a volunteer, go to [www.birdlife.org.au/carnabys/great-cocky-count](http://www.birdlife.org.au/carnabys/great-cocky-count)

**Firebreaks - Trail update.** Cowaramup Landscaping will commence repairs to the firebreak trails shortly. Of course they will do this with their usual courtesy and professionalism and try not to be too disruptive of your peaceful area, but please be aware that some stretches will be unusable for walking and riding while works are proceeding. The signage (right) will be installed when they complete the repairs.

A reminder to drivers that access to these areas is with permission only, and is specifically for the use of pedestrians and cyclists (except for of emergency and trail or bushland maintenance vehicles).



**Cats:** OK OK – I know – this is the worst drawing of a cat in the history of the universe. A 5 year old could do better (in fact a 5 year old no doubt knows more about using 'Paint' than I do!). This is just a reminder that one of the ideals of Parkwater is to keep the area cat free in order to give the small birds a chance of survival. The toll on birdlife by cats is horrendous, so along with the purchase of your block of land at Parkwater, you agreed NOT to have a cat here. Please respect this. If you do own a cat, please ensure it is not able to leave your property.



**Dogs:** How is that possible? – the dog is even worse! Please remember that your dog must be in your control at all times. It must not be able to leap fences and wander around the neighbourhood – no matter how friendly it is. On my last visit a delightful dog came up to me at the middle dam with a wag of the tail and a roll over for a tummy rub. I then saw him again at Coral Vine Cross and later at Honeysuckle Way. Lovely though he was, this is not appropriate!



If you have something you would like included in the **next or future newsletters**, please let me know by email to: [sherry.thomas@ntwa.com.au](mailto:sherry.thomas@ntwa.com.au) Or write to the attention of: Sherry Thomas, Conservation Officer , PO Box 1162, West Perth, WA 6872

*Support Western Australia's largest heritage conservation organisation by becoming a member of the National Trust and receive FREE ENTRY to 1000 National Trust heritage places in 24 countries. Join online today and save: [www.nationaltrust.org.au/wa](http://www.nationaltrust.org.au/wa)*

**National Trust of Australia (WA),**  
4 Havelock St, West Perth  
PO Box 1162,  
West Perth, WA 6872  
Phone: (08) 9321 6088

