

HISTORY OF BINBROOK RESERVE by DOROTHEA LIMB 2007

Reserve 1847, established 8th July 1891.

With the Eastern Railway passing through Darlington, the need for gravel for road and rail was great. Just a short distance west of the “Devil’s Terror” was Swan Location 1264. Therefore on the 8th July 1891 W.E. Marmon, Commissioner of Crown Lands, Perth, advised that His Excellency the Governor, in Executive Council, had set apart as Public Reserve 1847 Greenmount-Swan Location 1264 adjoining the Eastern Railway as Public Quarries Class C. (Gazette 524) There is little evidence that it was ever used as such. The size was 6.9632 Hectares.



Photograph 1 - Binbrook Reserve today

The trains brought many to Darlington – to enjoy the wildflowers, etc. – the picnickers, weekenders and buyers. With the land selling so quickly, soon available private property would no longer be available to the public.

In 1915 a group of concerned locals applied to the Government of the day to preserve Swan Location 1264. On the 24th March 1916 under the Permanent Reserves Act 1899, reserve 1847 was changed to National Parks Class A. This was signed by R. Cecil Clifton, Under Secretary of Lands (Gazette 482)

Many changes took place in the area from 1916 – these are covered in Ian Elliot’s book “Mundaring A History of the Shire.” These include extensive logging and the extension of Glen Forrest.

Glen Forrest extension came to the eastern boundary of Reserve 1847.

In 1970 The Government started vesting parks and reserves with the Shires. The writer was approached by a gentleman (a war ace) who stressed the importance of preserving this small “National Park”. On 21st May 1971 under Land Act 1933-69, the Council declared “that Class A reserve No. 1847 should vest and be held by the Shire of Mundaring in trust for the purpose of “National Park.” (Gazette 1727)

On the 11th February 1972 Glen Forrest Town Lot 347 became reserve No 31178 Class C Recreation (Gazette 279). It was named Binbrook Park on 2nd February 1979 (Gazette 311). This new reserve was part of Swan 1245 before it became part of Glen Forrest and backs on to the eastern boundary of Reserve 1847.

On 28th February 1986 Reserve 31178 was cancelled. (Gazette 622).

The name Binbrook Park was given to Reserve 1847 on 20th June 1986, (Gazette 2058). There was an open-air meeting of all who lived in the area of our little “National Park” Reserve 1847, at which time we were advised that the area Binbrook Park be combined with Reserve 1847. It was asked whether it would change the status of Reserve 1847. We were advised that it would not. On the 19th February 1988 (Gazette 538) lists 2 changes under Reserves and Land Revetment Act (no2) 1987. Amendment of Reserves No 9. Class A Reserve 1847 “National Park” to include Glen Forrest Lot 347 and of its area being increased

by 4,626 sq. metres. Change of Purpose of Reserves 1. Class A Reserve 1847 from "National Park" to Parklands. Then on 25th March 1988 using Land Act of 1933 which made it lawful of the Governor to revoke an order in Council, the order dated 12th May 1971 Class A Reserve 1847 vested in the Shire of Mundaring in trust for the purpose of "National Park" was revoked. (Gazette 895). A new order was issued "that Class A Reserve no 1847 (Swan Location 1264 and Glen Forrest Lot 347) should vest in and be held by the Shire of Mundaring in trust for the purpose of "Parklands" (Gazette 894). The National Parks Board felt that this now 7.4258 hectares was of little value because of area, hence the loss of "National Park"

At the open-air meeting we were asked to maintain the fire breaks on the Reserve adjacent to our lands. This has been done to the best of our ability.

The Hewitts paid their children for each weed they pulled - providing the roots and bulb were intact.

The Hewitts and Woldendorps removed some Tagasaste (Lucerne trees) and put in over 250 seedlings.

While all this was going on the west side (down to John Street), the Jones were caring for the eastern side, weeding and planting up to the lower fire break on Dalry Road as well as the verge.

By 1998 the Tagasaste on the west was growing at such a rate that it became evident we needed help. The Shire was contacted and we were advised that we should form a Friends Group, that way the Shire could set aside funds to help us under their Bush Care Coordinator.



Herbie cane to our aid, cut down the Tagasaste, sprayed the weeds (mainly garden escapees), and treated the Zamia Palms, Xanthorrhoea and Persoonias to protect them from Dieback. The latter should not be confused with the Pisonia i.e. Bird Catcher Tree which is deadly to tiny birds and animals because of their sticky glue-like pods. Kanyana [*Wildlife Rehabilitation Centre, Lesmurdie*] has issued a warning about this in their winter 2007 News Update. Two members of the group put in over 600 plants. The Hewitts planted the area between their boundary and the firebreak as well as the verge in front of their property. The 2001 and later years plantings are now evident on Dalry Road. We were fortunate to receive some Dieback Resistant Jarrah seedlings this year, 2007. The Die Back Committee Report from Dr Chris Dunn reveals that dieback is in a mosaic pattern. An outline of care and treatment has been suggested and the first treatment was done in 2001.

As a follow up to the Persoonias in 2006, it is planned for the Green Corp to do one at either the end of this year or early 2008. As the dieback travels by water, the area where the Tagasaste (Lucerne) forest was, now contains two dry ponds to take the runoff from Dalry Road. Years ago, the Whittaker boys discovered a dump under these trees. They found some very old bottles to add to their collection. We were not so fortunate! All we found was depths of broken glass, dishes bricks, wire, cans etc. Years of dumping still come to the surface. The area around the ponds was mulched and replanted.

Birds Australia did a survey over a one-year period (Oct 2003 – Sept 2004) and counted 32 species in the Reserve, with nine listed as significant. Several others have also been noted. As I wrote this, a flock of Red Tailed black cockatoos visited, pruning the new growth on the Jarrah trees. A pair of corellas arrived and tried to take over a Galah nesting tree. The spotted Pardalote nests in burrows, others in bushes close to the ground.

Over the years the Reserve has been predominantly a nature reserve - there are no paths, only tracks made by animals, except in the south from the walk trail. Birds Australia requested that we try to stop this due to birds nesting. We hope the die back signs will help keep people out of those areas.

Hilary

 Site Name <h2 style="text-align: center;">Binbrook Park</h2>		 PERTH BIODIVERSITY PROJECT <small>Councils Caring for their Natural Communities</small>
Site Location Darlington	Local Government Authority Shire of Mundaring	Area (ha) 7.4ha
Vegetation Complex Murray 2 Complex		Bird Survey Information <i>Survey period reported:</i> Oct 2003-Sept 2004 <i>Survey frequency:</i> monthly <i>Total no. surveys:</i> 11
Natural Area ID no: 10641	Bush Forever Site no: N/A	

Bird species recorded in survey period <small>* denotes introduced species</small>	Breeding on survey site	Maximum number recorded <small>(water dependent species only)</small>	Frequency of occurrence		Significant species (Bush Forever)
			No. <small>(number surveys in which recorded)</small>	% of surveys	
144 Australian Shelduck			1	9	
148 Australian Wood Duck	Possible		1	9	
123 Brown Goshawk			1	9	Category 4
251 Rock Dove*			1	9	
256 Common Bronzewing			6	55	Category 3
277 Short-billed Black-Cockatoo			1	9	Category 1,4
White-tailed Black-Cockatoo (not identified to species level)			2	18	Category 1,4
284 Galah			10	91	
306 Western Rosella			1	9	Category 4
300 Australian Ringneck			10	91	
299 Red-capped Parrot			5	45	
322 Fan-tailed Cuckoo			1	9	
324 Shining Bronze-Cuckoo			2	18	
345 Laughing Kookaburra*			8	73	
552 Spotted Pardalote			3	27	
554 Striated Pardalote			10	91	
463 Weebill			11	100	Category 3
467 Western Gerygone			11	100	
476 Western Thornbill			8	73	Category 3
478 Yellow-rumped Thornbill			2	18	Category 3
492 Red Wattlebird			8	73	
528 Brown Honeyeater			7	64	
531 New Holland Honeyeater			1	9	Category 4
394 Rufous Whistler			2	18	
602 Magpie-lark			7	64	
419 Grey Fantail			5	45	
372 Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike			4	36	
609 Grey Butcherbird			8	73	
611 Australian Magpie			10	91	
614 Australian Raven			7	64	
368 Tree Martin			1	9	
557 Silvereye			9	82	
Total = 32	Total = 1				Total = 9

Observers: Alma De Rebeira, Perry De Rebeira, Liz King, Richard King.

Other sources of bird survey information
 Nil known.

Additional significant bird species recorded in other sources

N/A

GENERAL COMMENTS

This Darling Range reserve is largely surrounded by low density, peri-urban housing with a high degree of vegetation cover. Binbrook Park is a relatively steep, rocky site with an overstorey of Jarrah *Eucalyptus marginatum*, Marri *Corymbia calophylla*, and *E. wandoo*.

A total of 32 bird species was recorded at Binbrook Park within the survey period. Of these, nine are significant under Bush Forever. These include the endangered Carnaby's Black-Cockatoo, a mobile species utilising both the Swan Coastal Plain and the Darling Range part of the Perth Metropolitan Region. On two occasions, due to the difficulties of identification, White-tailed Black-Cockatoos were recorded in the Reserve, but not identified to species level. These may be Carnaby's or Baudin's Black-Cockatoo. In this region, the latter is largely restricted to Darling Range or near-Darling Range sites.

Other bird species of significance include Western Rosella, a parrot species almost extinct on the Swan Coastal Plain and now largely restricted, in the Perth Metropolitan Region, to the Darling Range.

Management issues for this reserve include the maintenance of vegetation cover, and the control of access from the nearby bridle path and walking trail.

My appreciation and thanks go to:

Hilary Jones for her whole-hearted work and support without which we could not have accomplished what you see today.

The Mundaring Bushcare Co-ordinator, Linda who got us started and took care of the major work which we could not organize

Toni and Gemma, though they haven't been with us long

Herbie, whom Linda introduced to us and who adopted us and knew what needed doing.

Erin at Landgate for all her research and providing me with the documentation on the history of the Reserve

Andrew, Historical Officer, for reading through the files to write a report.

We do not know what the future will hold – Reserve 1847 has survived over 100 years. With a little care and love of nature, perhaps another 100 – when all around becomes built out.

D.E. Limb (Dorothea)

CONVENOR of the FRIENDS of BINBROOK PARK RESERVE

SEPT 2007 : 3 Neilson Crescent, Darlington, 6070

Postscript: Dorothea Emma Limb died on 1st January 2012, aged 84.



OBITUARY

DOROTHEA LIMB

Dorothea Emma Limb, nee Weeks, a long-time resident of Darlington, died Sunday the 1st January at Royal Perth Hospital.

Born in 1927 in Brooklyn, New York Dorothea overcame personal hardship in her early life to carve a career as a successful Insurance Broker. In 1970, as the Insurance Brokerage magazine said in their article

"Dorothea Weeks, a Director of Francis L. Arp & Co. Inc, has decided to change from the rat race to the koala bear race. She plans to take up residence in Australia"

Dorothea arrived in Perth 20th May 1970 and the next morning went up to see her new home, little more than a holiday shack, at Nielsen Crescent, where she continued to live until her death.

Dorothea carved herself a life in the Darlington area by joining community groups, making friends and learning about the history of the area. She was a strong minded person and put to use her skills of organization, business acumen and creativity in many community roles both in New York and in Darlington.

In August 1976 she became a member of the Midland Bowling Club, then the Treasurer, Secretary and finally President.

Dorothea attended church at the Darlington United for many years and then went to Parkerville Baptist Church where she became Treasurer of the Parkerville craft group.

She taught scripture at Darlington Primary School.

Ever passionate about the environment in which we live she took on research into the Binbrook Park Reserve and later became Convenor for Friend's Group of the Park working alongside volunteers removing weeds and re-establishing natives.

Dorothea was a valued member of the Darlington community, she touched many lives and she will be missed by her friends.

Valerie Sorensen