

Friends of Manning Park Ridge



Templetonia retusa (Cockies Tongues) –
one of the numerous and diverse flora found along Manning Park Ridge

CHANGES AND CHALLENGES OBSERVED	Since Living Opposite Manning Ridge 1981 – 2024
<p>Rubbish Dumping - Building Waste -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Asbestos • Mounds of various waste material • Dumped cars • Cabling – plastic • Washing machines/fridges • Corrugated iron 	<p>Passive and Active Pursuits – various groups</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Manning Park Runners (>600 Registered members) • Hash House Harriers • Orienteering Groups • Daily recreational runners • Daily recreational walkers • Daily dog walkers <p>Cats/Foxes/Rabbits</p>
<p>Camping</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Homeless and Itinerant people camping and sleeping in lean-to's and in quarry hollows • Large quantities of rubbish left behind attracting feral cats, foxes, etc 	<p>Weeds</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Excessive weed control (overflow to surrounding plant life) • Grassy weed control – prior to seeding • Huge variety of weeds – out of control
<p>On and Off-Road Vehicles/Fencing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4wd Vehicles • Trail Bikes • Easy access through various means. Inadequate fencing 	<p>Mountain Bikers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trail making • Excessive and ongoing damage to flora prompting and promoting - • Erosion
<p>Fires</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regularly, a fire would occur in the open area at base of Manning Ridge (Southend Rd, Hamilton Hill) • 2022 Large fire at rear of house along Southend Rd, Hamilton Hill. 	<p>Signage</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No adequate signage identifying Manning Ridge as a Bush Forever 247 site, and Regional Park • Significance of TEC's Located at Manning Ridge and surrounding areas, thus requiring Environmental protection and important for biodiversity

Observations and activities occurring from 1981 to 2024. Manning Park Ridge has come under a great deal of pressure from excessive use - Off Road 4 WD Vehicles, off road motor bikes, numerous walkers with the dogs, casual runners and daily walkers who enjoy the changing seasons and variety which can be found. Now the bushland is under heavy use by mountain bike riders and since 2022 the activities of organised park runners. The number exceeding 100 one evening per week – 200 stomping feet. The runners use headlamps to run at night time. They have consistently used the trails created by the Mbikers thus making tracks wider. Erosion is further occurring alongside the established limestone tracks created by the City of Cockburn for service vehicles. Runners are not wanting to run on the now rough limestone tracks – more room for weeds and further erosion.

Allan Bond blimp – America's Cup 1983



View of the Manning Park Ridge during the 1983 America's Cup event. Highly degraded and eroded 'moon like' landscape, lacking in any sign of established or diverse flora. Very sad looking



View from the Northern end of the Ridge. An abundance of very established and healthy flora is throughout



Banksia dallenneyi



Acacia rostellifera,



Banksia sessilis

Banksia dallenneyi – abundant and prolific throughout open and closed areas of the MP Ridge.

Acacia rostellifera, and *Banksia sessilis* – both abundant throughout the middle and northern areas of Manning Park Ridge. Carnabys Cockatoos are regular visitors to feed on the *B sessilis* before heading east for roosting either at Beale Park or Phoenix Primary School, both within 1km of the Ridge



T Left – view from north east looking towards Ridge. Numerous Tuart trees dominate this area.

T Right – approximate sight line of Ridge as (Slide 3) of Ridge looking at the blimps in 1983, Americas cup. Huge increase in plant diversity. B Left – erosion created by Mountain Bikers. Previously this area was closed bushland.

Small to medium size dog to indicate depth and width of many of the tracks created by the mountain bikers. Erosion throughout the Ridge and southern end is devastating the whole area *Melaleuca huegelii*, commonly known as Chenille Honey myrtle – also prolific throughout the Ridge. Now classed as a Threatened Ecological species (2023)



Grevillea preisii



Templetonia retusa and
Lechenaultia linorioides



Left – *Grevillea preisii* is a species of flowering plants in the family Proteaceae. It is endemic throughout the entire Manning Park Ridge area. *Templetonia retusa* -grows well along the north facing side of the limestone ridge.

Lechenaultia linorioides, commonly named yellow leschenaultia, is a species of flowering plant in the family Goodeniaceae. It is endemic to Manning Park Ridge, wide spread and quite hidden amongst other flora.



Left –
*Melaleuca
huegelii*
Right – track
created by
Mountain Bike
Riders



Left - *Melaleuca huegelii*, commonly known as Chenille Honeymyrtle (TEC 2023). Sandy but highly eroded area with Victorian T-trees. Regularly used by mountain bike riders, dog walkers, daily runners and general public.



Gnamma or (more than one) Gnammas – def – a rock hole, capable of holding water. Formed by weathering. There are many Gnammas located throughout the Manning Park ridge area. Top right Gnamma successfully holds water throughout the wet season.

Bottom Left – Unusual find – this is a large squared off hole, it is squared off at left edges, is approximately 1m deep. It is within close proximity of GPS at the top of the main Ridge area.



City of Cockburn
welcomes to water

Manning Park

GATE Fire vehicle access

Mountain Bike Riders – groups or single riders all year round, with only a significant drop off during the high summer period. Service vehicle tracks are used plus a spider web of trails created over the past 10 years. Trails are throughout Manning Park ridge and lower bushland area, south of Spearwood Avenue. The following slides (11 – 16) show the significant damage riders have created - trails, building jumps, skidding, burns and continual use of trails. Every day I see anything from 1 – 5 riders working their way through the Manning Ridge area.



Left slide – not just sawing down a juvenile 10+m tuart, but using an axe causing significant damage Right image - 1 trail forking to 2. The original single trail was difficult to move through being very small. I was required to bend very low and push my way under *Banksia sessilis* to continue with any access. I can remember there were approximately 3/4 small pedestrian trails to the top of the Ridge, plus service vehicle access. Now there are at least 13 bike trails, (on the main Ridge area), all significantly eroded and continually eroding due to use by Manning Park Runners and many daily walkers, either on trail, or on/off limestone tracks.



Erosion is continuous. The Ridge has many visitors – daily walkers with or without dogs. Runners in groups or single, and mountain bike riders. The Impact of a continual stream of visitors along trails or on designated limestone tracks is causing a huge impact. Manning Park Runners meet weekly, with numbers usually around 80 – 100 people. They split into smaller groups of 8-10 runners. The MP Runners gather every Thursday evening, except some school holidays (info Slide 28 below).



A great deal of damage has occurred in many pockets on the slope behind Azelia Ley Homestead. The erosion and damage is continual, especially in wet weather with limestone and soil movement. Damage has been significant over the last 7 years. Many damaged mature trees and saplings throughout the Park



Left – Manning Park Ridge area



Right - Southern end of Ridge line. Gorgeous area between Spearwood ave and railway line

More erosion.

Top Left - Manning Park Ridge.

Bottom Right – area between Spearwood Avenue and Railway line. A very diverse and healthy area. Previously unknown to Riders, but eventually found and is now highly sought after due to the softer soil, cooler and more compact landscape. Taller, thinner tuart trees throughout. Thick weed vegetation which can be ridden over easily, and cleared off with shovel.



Erosion and gathering of Manning Park Runners

Left – In previous years this was quite a wide limestone track frequented by in 4WD vehicles which they had access to. Once fence was erected around the surrounds of Manning Park this particular area of bushland has been re-establishing itself - encroaching and re-covering the track. Erosion is now returning with the ongoing usage of the area.

Right - Manning Park Runners. Membership of 3.1K (information from Manning Park Runners Facebook Page - Slide 28)

Where: Manning Park - Manning Stairs carpark on Azelia Rd Spearwood

When: 5pm Kids Group then 6pm Main Session every Thursday

Details: FREE Trail Running session every Thursday night open to everyone. Come for the run, stay for the community!

Meet in the carpark near the stairs:

5pm for a Kids Group which goes until 6pm, including a 15min warmup.

Then 6pm for our Main Session. We do a 15min group warm up then head out on the trails for 1hr till 7:15pm.

In the 6pm main session we have a range of different paced groups from a hiking group, hike/jog, easy, medium, fast and podium getters! We cater for all paces.

Other adhoc runs or hikes in other locations around Perth may be posted simply to invite members of the group along for a new adventure.

The aim of this group is to share our knowledge of the Manning Park trails with those who may not know the area too well or feel safer running in a group situation rather than alone or just simply enjoy the company of running with others :)

By requesting permission to join this Facebook Group and having read or not read the disclaimer found in the FILES tab you agree, by turning up for a run, that you acknowledge and consent to all the risks and terms and conditions and any other event or incident that may occur not already covered in the disclaimer document.

We also love to take lots of photos out on our trail adventures - if you don't wish for yourself or your child to be in those photos which are shared on our social media pages then contact one of the admins and let us know.

Hope to see you on the trails!



More erosion and materials either abandoned by trail makers or dislodged by frustrated locals. Many areas with abandoned pallet crates and holes created for jumps, etc.

This area behind Azelia Ley homestead holds a large grove of mature Tuart trees. Delightful space during winter and cooler season.



Courtesy
Janine McCrum

Erosion throughout Manning Park and surrounds. This current and continual hot period (November 2023 to April 2024) with very little rain, has shown how the Ridge has dried out extensively. This is the driest I have witnessed in over 40 years. The Victorian t-trees are dying off and/or being uprooted by high winds coming over from the west (not complaining). Because of the high weed infestation, the now denuded areas are and would be susceptible to infestation by non-endemic populations of weed, ie Watsonia, Bridal Creeper, Fountain grass, Pink gladiolus, White Broom, and the prolific Brazilian Pepper Tree which is throughout the area. This coming season, the *Templetonia retusa* looks like it will struggle to return to its former glory, the *Banksia sessilis* is dying and struggling to survive in various pockets. Seed stocks will need to be gathered from the site to retain its origin and provenience.



Courtesy
Marg Owen

And on a more cheerful note. This pair of Tawny Frog Mouths have raised 2 chicks (2023/24) at the edge of Manning Park Lake (Photos Courtesy of Marg Owen). Manning Park Ridge area also lays claim to a family which has nested in the area for 3 seasons. They have returned for the 4th year this month (April 2024).

Over a long period of time, Manning Ridge hosts the migratory Rainbow Bee Eaters. Burrows are seen in the softer soil areas. Beautiful sight and sound.



Courtesy

Janine McCrum - A beautiful stand of *Xanthorrhoea presseii* - How old?? Who knows??