



Julimar Conservation and Forest Alliance display at last month's Toodyay Show.

40 years of broken promises leaves Julimar Forest at risk

Julimar Conservation and Forest Alliance
Sharon Richards

THE ENVIRONMENT Matters marquee was a hive of colourful activity at the recent Toodyay Show.

A carefully constructed display depicting the fascinating creatures of the Julimar Forest enthralled many of the visitors to our marquee.

The walls were adorned with pictures of our wonderful birds, wildflowers and cute marsupials.

Images from night vision cameras, provided by DBCA and placed in various locations in Julimar Forest, gave us a rare chance to see images of the woylies, chuditch and possums that call Julimar home.

Our younger visitors had an opportunity to have their picture taken with a giant black gloved wallaby, which is also found in the park.

As they were too young to formally sign our petition for Julimar to become a National Park, we asked them to write a message on leaves about why they thought trees were important and why they might need protection.

They came up with some very insightful comments.

One noted that "We need trees to breathe and trees also give habitats to animals", while others said: "I care about the trees because they give oxygen"; "They (trees) help our environment grow, and help us breathe"; and "They give us shade and pleasure".

These poignant messages were hung on a tree for all to see and will soon be on display

in Drummond House.

Where possible, the childrens' comments will be forwarded to the decision-makers who can make a difference to the conservation of Julimar for future generations.

After 40 years of promises and still no action, the Julimar Conservation and Forest Alliance is continuing to collect signatures to petition the government to make good on its many unkept promises to conserve Julimar Forest for its own intrinsic value.

Currently there is nothing in place to protect the ageing trees that sequester carbon dioxide from our atmosphere and provide habitat for the many birds that frequent the forest.

The understory, which provides protection and foraging for the creatures such as woylies and chuditch, is in places being ravaged by feral pigs and overrun with foxes and feral cats.

We know that the 1080 baiting is only being undertaken four times a year which is not frequent enough to have an impact on feral cats.

On every batch of photographs from the night cameras we have seen multiple feral cats.

Clearly an alternative solution needs to be found if this issue is to be resolved and the animals of the forest protected.

A healthy Julimar Forest enables human beings to walk and enjoy a place which enhances their feeling of peace and wellbeing, contributing to their mental and physical health.

A forest such as Julimar cannot be replaced. No amount of revegetation planting can restore a 300-year-old jarrah or wandoo tree, nor the incredible biodiversity of a naturally occurring forest.

It's time to stop doing nothing.

To date more than 3000 people have pledged their support to Julimar.

If you would like to know more and support Julimar becoming a National Park please contact us, on julimarforest@gmail.com or go to our website www.julimarcafa.org.au to sign the petition and see how you can get involved.

A final message from one of the future generations:

"It's 2023, we are already facing a global crisis of global warming and now the destruction of forests.

"We still need forests otherwise our ecosystem will suffer".

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