

CEO UPDATE

Kim Eckert



Spring is in the air, the temperatures are rising, the plants are flowering and the KBULG Team is looking forward to busy and exciting times ahead! The last months of the year are always packed with rewarding projects and community events, while at the same time we are looking back on eventful and successful winter months for our organisation.

Our annual Tree Planting Day, KBULG's largest community event of the year, was again a full success. We were blessed with beautiful weather, and more than 200 volunteers planted above 4000 native seedlings along Meldrum Avenue.

It was great to have the support from the Keep Australia Beautiful Team who travelled to Kalgoorlie to assist us with cleaning up the site and among 67 kg of rubbish even discovered a left-handed golf club and a steam mop! We were also delighted to be joined by 30 student volunteers from Curtin University who previously, as part of an environmental and social governance program, learnt about KBULG's work and helped us propagating the seedlings for the Tree Planting event in our community nursery.

I would like to wholeheartedly thank everyone for their participation at this truly inspiring community event, and everyone's passionate dedication to help us clean up and revegetate the area for the benefit of our unique environment and our incredible community.

It's wonderful to experience the extraordinarily high level of care and commitment among community members when it comes to making our City a more sustainable and greener place to live.

A couple of weekends ago the KBULG team had the honour to admire and judge the remarkable sustainable landscaping and gardening efforts from entrants in our annual Sustainable Garden Quest. Residents, community groups and schools again demonstrated amazing dedication to waterwise gardening and shared their innovative ideas for their beautiful gardens that greatly enhance the street-scape of Kalgoorlie - Boulder.

There is still time to start creating your entry for our annual rECONstructed Competition held in November. The theme will again be 'Anything goes' and there is no rule as to what types of materials can be used - let your imagination flow! We are looking forward to your entry and mingling with many of our community members during the Exhibition Opening night at the Museum of the Goldfields.

Now is a great time to visit Karlkurla Bushland Park and witness the amazing array of colour on display. Look out for yellow-flowering Acacias and Sennas, pink and red-flowering Eremophilas, and purple fields of Mulla, in addition to many other species you might spot flowering. And hopefully by the end of the year your whole family will be enjoying a new highlight for the park - the new all-ability nature playground - a project very close to my heart and one of my dreams come true since taking on the position of KBULG CEO more than a decade ago.

I hope you enjoy our Spring Newsletter and I would like to take this opportunity to thank our dedicated staff, committee, wonderful volunteers, the community and our generous sponsors. With everyone working together, we are successfully working towards a 'Better Environment, Better Lifestyle' for the people of the Goldfields.

Spring Newsletter
VOLUME 28 | Issue 1

2023 KALGOORLIE-BOULDER

TREE PLANTING DAY



KBULG would like to thank all the dedicated volunteers who supported our Annual Tree Planting Day on Sunday, July 30th 2023.

More than 200 enthusiastic community members helped us to revegetate a bare area of bushland, and importantly contributed to the protection of local fauna.

The event was hosted in conjunction with National Tree Planting Day and enabled the planting of 4000 seedlings that had been propagated in KBULG's community nursery. This year's event complimented revegetation efforts commenced

in 2019, 2021 and 2022, focusing on revegetating a section of the bare area between Centennial Park and Meldrum Avenue in close proximity to Gribble Creek. Restoring the area with native vegetation will not only significantly improve its visual amenity, but also suppress dust and create habitats for animals. We would also like to thank the Keep Australia Beautiful (KAB) Team who travelled to the event and assisted us with a huge clean-up effort of the area. A staggering 67 kg of litter was removed from the planting site & surrounds by the KAB team and a number of incredible volunteers from the community. KBULG would also like to thank all our sponsors that facilitate the implementation



of these rewarding community events, and especially thank Bunnings Kalgoorlie, our sponsor on the day.



exhibition space and atmospheric venue for the Exhibition Opening Night on Friday, November 10th.

There is still time to start creating your entry! Let your creativity and imagination flow freely with our chosen Event Theme 'Anything Goes'.

There are no rules on the types of materials or the size and dimensions of your competition entry. Email the KBULG Team for your entry form: admin@kbulg.org.au

reconstructed ART COMPETITION

It's almost time for one of KBULG's most unique and anticipated events of the year!

Coinciding with National Recycling Week in November our annual rECONstructed Event aims to inspire the community to make functional and aesthetic use of what would, in other contexts, be defined as waste.

With the addition of a new Family Category the competition now includes eight categories with cash prizes for each, and we are thankful to the Museum of the Goldfields for again providing us with such a great

SUSTAINABLE GARDEN QUEST WINNERS



Residential (Owner and Tenant combined)
Winner: Arthur Ward and Ethel Chinnery

Clever use of recycled household water for garden that makes inventive use of pots - Arthur and Ethel even manage to grow potatoes in rather small pots!



Commercial (Business and Industry combined)
Winner: Allison Golsby and Carl Nunan (Allora House)

Innovative techniques to slow down water movement - assisting water absorption across the garden that predominantly consists of natives & provides water sources for local fauna.



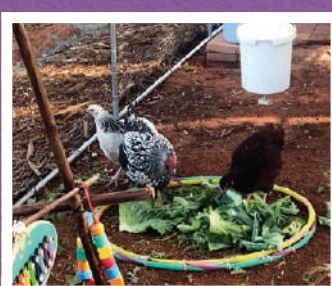
Schools
Winner: South Kalgoorlie Primary School

Vegetable Garden engages students and provides constant fresh produce for the creative Hungry Bee Canteen that adapts its meals to vegetables on offer.



Community Organisation
Winner: Goldfields Individual and Family Support Association

Well-designed garden with water wise plants and an array of raised vegetable garden beds where participants are actively involved in selecting, planting and harvesting produce.



Edible Garden
Winner: Kalgoorlie-Boulder Community Garden

Recent addition of chooks completes cyclical system - Scraps from garden are fed to chooks, chooks' waste is composted, and compost is reused to grow a variety of fruits and vegetables.

Congratulations to the winners of the SUSTAINABLE GARDEN QUEST 2023!

The judges felt very lucky to be treated to such beautiful and diverse gardens, and were inspired by the passion and dedication of the competition entrants to utilise waterwise and sustainable techniques.



ADVERTISING FEATURE

www.kbulg.org.au

A NEW PLACE FOR NATURE PLAY AMONG GOLDFIELDS BUSHLAND

Constructions are under way for Kalgoorlie-Boulder's first all-ability nature playground.

Premier Roger Cook officially turned the sod at Karlkurla Bushland Park in late July and we are hoping to have children zipping across the place on a double flying fox, climbing up and sliding down from a platform tower, balancing across wooden beams and enjoying a range of other activities, by the end of the year.

The nature playground will be the largest in regional WA and cater for children with



all abilities, making it a fully inclusive facility set within the 200-hectare nature reserve

that is already very popular with local and travelling families, due to its fantastic network of walking and bike trails with interpretive signs and the very scenic Katunga Lookout. The playground will be located near the park's main entrance and will be equipped with an accessible toilet, shade sails, barbecues and picnic tables. It will make the perfect spot to finish off your Karlkurla walking or biking adventure, present a great stand-alone attraction for visitors, and provide locals with an attractive place to play and meet. The playground's construction is facilitated through the State Government and the City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder, and also supported by Northern Star Resources and Western Power.



Premier Hon Roger Cook MLA, Environment Minister Hon Reece Whitby MLA, Member for Kalgoorlie Ali Kent MLA, KBULG Chief Executive Kim Eckert and Regional Development Minister Hon Don Punch MLA during the sod-turning ceremony.

Create your own birdbath

Take care of the wildlife that visits your garden this summer. Bees, lizards, frogs and birds need our help over summer. Provide shady places for them to rest, birdbaths for them to bathe in, and ponds for them to swim in, or even just a little tray of water with a few pebbles thrown in so the bees can have a drink. And why not get creative and make your own unique birdbath? We have found two of the easiest DIY birdbath ideas for you:

Stacked Stones

This one is a simple yet effective bird bath that does not require you to go to the shops, simply use what you have in your garden! Find a few similar medium sized flat stones and pile them on top of each other. You can place any fancy saucers or pots that will be able to balance on top and you are done.



Tin Rubbish Bin Bird Bath

This bird bath will take you a grand total of 5 minutes to make! Find an old tin rubbish bin. First, flip the bin upside down facing the opening to the ground then place the lid upside down on top of the bin. If the lid has a handle be sure to remove it before placing the lid on the bin. You can pour a bit of water and place food in a small bowl on top of the lid for the finishing touch!



WASTE - CONSCIOUS camping ideas

The weather is warming up and many of us are in the process of planning camping trips.

Getting organised and all packed up can be tedious enough and the last thing on our minds is the amount of waste we'll produce while trying to relax and re-connect with nature. However, taking stock of our waste produced while camping can be confronting – especially when camping out at sites without rubbish collection facilities. Having to collect and hang on to our rubbish for a number of days or even weeks makes us realise just how much rubbish we produce during a relatively short amount of time. By reducing our camping waste there will be less waste for local communities to collect and dispose of on our behalf, less to go into landfill, and if we need to take it with us, less for that as well. There are some simple ways to reduce the volume of rubbish we generate when out camping and we have listed some simple suggestions below:

Make Food from Scratch

Avoid buying food bought in plastic containers and tins by preparing the contents from scratch where possible. E.g.: baked beans, chopped tomatoes, dried chickpeas, fresh corn, home-made dips...

Carry Water Sustainably

It is crucial to always carry more water than we think we'll need in the event of a breakdown or even if it ends up being a muddy weekend with lots of extra cleaning! Empty plastic

water bottles are the real enemy of waste-conscious camping but fortunately there are a few options for transporting water such as water bladders, water jerry cans, collapsible water bags and large reusable water bottles. Water bladders can be a great option as they can be rolled up and stored away once empty.

Acquire a Water Filter

If there is a freshwater source at the campsite but water quality appears dubious a great option is the use of a water filter. Water Filters have become more effective and affordable over the years and there are many options available.

Use Reusable Utensils

Equip everyone on your trip with reusable water bottles, coffee cups, bowls, cutlery and containers.

Compost Food Scraps

Instead of throwing food scraps in the general waste, ferment them with Bokashi composting maize until you get back to your compost bin. All you need is a waterproof bag, the maize and the food scraps. Alternate a handful of maize with a layer of food scraps and seal.

Develop a Meal Plan

Developing a meal plan before you leave home and stocking up on the quantity of required long life ingredients can help reduce packaging waste.

Choose Products with Minimal Packaging

Avoid over-packaged food by choosing products with minimal or no packaging, staying clear of snack packs and individually wrapped food. Store food in reusable containers & cloth



bags instead of plastic bags and packets. It is handy to have a few extra beeswax wraps, containers or cloth bags to store food leftovers.

Avoid Disposable Battery Powered Devices

Choose rechargeable devices over those powered by disposable batteries where possible, such as lights. If it can't be avoided, choose devices that use the minimum number of batteries. Regular campers might want to invest in some type of solar and battery set-up such as folding solar panel mats and/or solar power banks with USB chargers.

Ditch Disposable Wipes, Paper Towels & Cleaning Cloths

Try to avoid wet wipes for freshening yourself up and use a damp face washer instead that you can hang up for later use. A bar of soap in a container produces less waste than liquid soap in a bottle and takes up less room. A reusable microfibre dishcloth is perfect for washing the dishes and wiping down the table. Taking a few tea towels and hanging them up to dry somewhere handy and close will suffice for drying dishes and wet hands.



Preparing your Garden for Summer

Spring is an exciting time for any keen gardener in the Goldfields.

It is the season for serious growth in the garden and the warmer weather invites us to spend time outdoors getting our garden ready for the warmer months.

Although summer and its extreme heat might still seem a fair way off, now is the time to think about ways to get your garden through the summer heat and prepare accordingly.

Fertilise your Garden in Spring

With the onset of the warmer weather plants start showing new growth. You can help your plants to reach their full potential by applying a fertiliser. A combination of organic fertilisers that together supply plentiful Nitrogen, Phosphorous and Potassium, is very effective.

Time for Last-minute Pruning

Ideally, you've done your pruning, but if you haven't got round to it there's still time – do it today! Wait until any shrubs have ceased flowering before pruning them. Avoid any substantial pruning in the heat of summer, even if the leaves look yellow and sunburnt. These provide shade for the younger leaves underneath and protect them from direct sun exposure. Keep removing dead flowers as most summer bloomers will produce more if the old ones are removed.

Check your Reticulation Systems

Summer gardening is mostly about water management, and now is the time to evaluate the efficiency of any reticulation system you might have. Over the winter months, reticulation piping and solenoids often wear down, and by testing it well ahead of the onset of hot weather you will have the time to replace any missing parts. It might also be wise to assess the water efficiency of the system and possibly consider alternative sprinkler heads and sprays that help minimise overspray and maximise even cover, which is what plants need to grow. To ensure that everything is in working order, check every station and individual sprinkler or drip line in your garden to avoid plants from blocking the water getting to other plants, and to ensure that each sprinkler is working.

Water Wisely

During the hotter months, plants will need regular, deep watering with the optimal 10 mm in order to stay hydrated. Water in the early morning or late evening during summer to reduce evaporation. If you have potted plants, make sure to give them extra water. Potted plants generally have shorter roots and are often the first to wither away during summer since they can't get that much water from the soil. You may want to move them somewhere shady to avoid the soil from drying out quickly.

Mulch, Mulch and More Mulch...

A good mulch cover is the key factor that keeps water in the ground as mulch plays a vital role in keeping your soil healthy and moist while reducing evaporation. It acts a bit like sunscreen for your garden, protecting the bugs and beneficial microbes that live in the soil. Mulch made from large pieces is more effective at allowing water through and retaining it in the soil. Spread a layer of 8-10 cm thickness over your garden beds.

Control your Weeds

Weeds tend to proliferate during the summer, as they thrive in the heat and consume water more efficiently than your chosen plants. Weeds will start consuming all the water and nutrients in the soil, leaving your plants parched and at risk of wilting and withering away.

It's easier to pull weeds when they're young because the roots are shallow. It's also important to get on top of them before they flower and set seed. Use a spade to remove the entire weed as it can regrow even if just a small part of its root remains in the soil.

Keep your Compost moist

Make sure that the compost heap isn't drying out. It needs to stay damp so that the materials actually break down, and to prevent ants and cockroaches from moving in.

FLORA CORNER



Native Honeysuckle

Eremophila alternifolia

Aboriginal name: Tarrtjan (Goldfields)

Size and Form: Erect and open medium shrub, 1–4 m high.

Flowers: Pink and magenta, spotted singular flowers to 25 mm

long on thin, curved stalks.

Fruits: Dry, conical, 3 mm by 2 mm.

Leaves: Alternate light green, linear leaves 10 – 50 mm long.

Habitats: A variety of habitats, generally on red or stony soils, often on hills.



Uses:

Parts of this plant have been used as a traditional medicine. A small quantity was used in a preparation for treating colds and inflammation of the throat, an infusion of the leaves as a soporific – inducing drowsiness and sleep, and other parts combined as a topical treatment. Compounds such as verbascoside present in the leaves of this species have antibacterial properties and the ability to dilate blood vessels.

Come and see the range of native plants at the KBULG Community Nursery in Karlkurla Bushland Park open Monday to Friday 8.00am to 12.00 noon. Email admin@kbulg.org.au for directions.

FAUNA CORNER

Goldfields Spiny-tailed Gecko

Strophurus assimilis

Taxonomy:

The Goldfields spiny-tailed gecko was originally assumed to be a hybrid between the northern spiny-tailed gecko and southern spiny-tailed gecko but recognised as a separate species in 1988.

Description:

This species reaches a total average body length of 125 mm.

The body is mostly light or mid-grey, sometimes with irregular dark markings.

It has enlarged tan to orange tubercles arranged in a pair of parallel, mostly continuous, wavy lines down either side of the dorsal mid-line.

The animal's striking eyes are distinguished by an iris with a reticulated pattern surrounding by a dark brown ring.



Habitat & Behaviour:

The natural habitat of the gecko is mallee spinifex and acacia shrubland in arid and semiarid areas.

Like most other spiny-tailed geckos the species is nocturnal, arboreal and only moves down to the ground to forage and rest.

Pregnant females are often spotted on the ground as they use the additional warmth of rocks and roads to assist the

development of the two eggs they carry.

While the species moves across the ground with some speed, when in a bush it tends to move slowly mimicking the sticks swaying in the wind.

Interesting Fact:

Spiny-tailed geckos have a unique defence mechanism: the ability to squirt a harmless, foul-smelling fluid from their tails to deter perceived enemies.

VOLUNTEER WITH KBULG!

Have you ever considered volunteering your time to help other organisations?

KBULG is just one of the organisations that **welcome volunteers** not just at major events but also at our **Community Nursery in Karlkurla Bushland Park**. If you have a few hours to spare and are interested in developing skills in propagating and caring for our local, native plants, get in touch: admin@kbulg.org.au

Get your Outback Clean-Up Pack

Roadsides in WA remain amongst the most littered areas of the State. Many of these areas are frequented by travellers en route to some of WA's wonderful natural assets and tourism destinations.

To reduce litter and make cleaning up the State easier for travellers, thousands of free Outback Packs are available state-wide to help clean-up.

The Outback Packs are individually packed by students from WA high schools as part of the community service program. Packs are available from selected visitor centres across WA such as the Kalgoorlie-Boulder Visitor Centre.



Find out more about outback packs and other ways to help to keep clean our unique environment at <https://www.kabc.wa.gov.au/resources>

JUNIOR LANDCARE IN ACTION



Hannan's Primary Living Art Cultural Garden Project, supported by Edle and Danny Ulrich, KBULG and Evolution Mining.

KBULG continues to actively collaborate with Kalgoorlie-Boulder's ten primary schools and three secondary schools, and we try our best to accommodate any request from schools to organise and partake in activities with a focus on promoting the conservation of our unique Goldfields environment.

In late June this year we were excited to implement an arts activity for South Kalgoorlie Primary School's NAIDOC celebrations and in August we

were thrilled to be involved in the creation of Hannan's Primary Living Art Cultural Garden. We never cease to be amazed by the passion and

dedication of our schools' amazing teaching staff and are looking forward to partake in many more exciting projects and activities.



South Kalgoorlie Primary School's NAIDOC Celebrations.



Contact KBULG P: 0418 935 498

E: admin@kbulg.org.au F: www.facebook.com/KBULG1

W: www.kbulg.org.au





Help our Native Bees with a Native Plant Garden

A recent study from Curtin University in urban habitats discovered that 70-80 percent of native bee visits were to 10 different native plant species, primarily from the Myrtaceae (including eucalypts, bottlebrushes and melaleucas) and Fabaceae (native pea plants) families. Help our native bees and plant native plants this Spring!

UPCOMING EVENTS...

SPRING FESTIVAL
Sunday, October 15

KBULG ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
To Be Advised

RECONSTRUCTED ART COMPETITION
ENTRIES DUE
Monday, October 30 to
Saturday, November 4
OPENING NIGHT
Friday, November 10, 5.30-7pm

Getting your garden into the zone
What is hydrozoning?

Creating zones based on plant needs allows you to set up your garden with irrigation stations, which will deliver the required amount of water for the plants. This is known as hydrozoning. Hydrozoning not only maximises the efficiency of your watering, it also helps to prioritise maintenance and fertilising requirements.

Think about the following zone types when setting up your garden:



Primary: These are high demand water areas and may require daily watering by hand. Examples include vegetable gardens.



Secondary: These are moderate demand water areas and thrive on a two days a week watering roster. Examples include turf and ornamentals.



Minimal: These are low demand water areas and may only require hand watering in the hotter months. Examples include established natives.

Find more valuable help and waterwise advice from the Water Corporation at: <https://www.watercorporation.com.au/Help-and-advice/Waterwise>



KBULG SCHEME ID
C10285533

HELP KBULG BY DONATING YOUR CONTAINERS OR THE FUNDS RAISED BY RETURNING YOUR CONTAINERS.

WHICH CONTAINERS CAN YOU CASH-IN?



Eligible Containers



Most glass, plastic, aluminium, steel and paper based cartons between 150ml and 3L.

WHICH CONTAINERS YOU CAN NOT CASH-IN?



Ineligible Containers



Containers not commonly found in litter, including all plain milk, flavoured milks, 1L and above, pure juice drinks, wine and spirit bottles, cordials.

Thank you to our valued sponsors



Government of Western Australia
Department of Water and Environmental Regulation



Get an easy start on your own little
HERB GARDEN

Herbs are some of the easiest plants to grow, and are the most delicious and healthy addition to your dishes!

Even if you are apprehensive about your gardening skills and the thoughts of labour-intensive veggie patches appear scary to you, herbs are a good way to easily grow your own produce while instantly being rewarded. You can even buy a small pot of herbs, plant it and immediately harvest from it. And a big bonus for us Goldfields gardeners is that herbs grow just about anywhere and thrive in the hot summer sun.

The tricky part is just picking the herbs you want to grow! It's easy to get overwhelmed with the large variety of herbs on offer and return home with four different kinds of mint, and once they are ready for harvesting, you'll have no clue what to actually do with them.

We therefore recommend to first start with herbs that you tend to use in your cooking and end up buying at the store such as rosemary, oregano, basil, mint and thyme and then, once you have established your little herb garden add more that might tickle your fancy.

When setting up your little herb garden it's handy to know that there are two main types of herbs: annuals like basil that grows and dies within the same year and perennials such as rosemary, a woody shrub that lives for many years.

Here are some popular herbs, their growing preferences and some of their delicious characteristics:

Parsley (full sun, grow as an annual)

Parsley is the perfect herb for beginners as it's extremely easy to grow from seed and only takes three to four weeks to shoot, providing you

promptly with satisfying results. Just watch out for hungry snails and keep the soil moist through gently watering. Regular picking or pruning helps parsley to thrive, as it encourages dense growth. Aside from its culinary uses, parsley is also highly nutritious and particularly rich in vitamins A, C, and K.

Basil (full sun, grow as an annual over summer)

This herb is easy to grow from seed — sow basil in spring and summer, then collect the seeds in autumn, as the plant will die off in winter.

There are few herbs as versatile as basil. It's used fresh in stir-fries or pasta sauces, as a tasty garnish, in salads and of course as the vital pesto ingredient! Sweet basil is the most well-known and commonly grown basil and is a key in the Mediterranean cuisine. Another popular variety is Thai basil, distinguished by a more intense flavour and increased spiciness.

Mint (part shade, perennial)

Mint easily grows in shady, moist areas, and in pots. You can harvest the leaves as needed and use them in drinks, Asian salads and sweets. Common mint spreads through the garden via underground stems, and for this reason it is usually recommended to grow it in a pot. You might have to watch out for tiny caterpillars that tend to chew leaves of mint plants, often leaving nothing more than bare stalks.

Once you've succeeded with ordinary mint, why not try some more exotic varieties such as

lemon, ginger, pineapple and apple mint?

Thyme (sun, perennial)

Thyme is a groundcover herb that often creeps over surfaces or spills out of a pot. Thyme prefers direct sunlight and shelter and along with the common variety others include lemon, woolly and caraway. In addition to adding delicious and distinct flavouring to dishes thyme is also known for its antiseptic and antifungal properties.

Rosemary (sun, permanent shrub, can be grown in a pot)

This evergreen shrub prefers a drier soil and typically lasts for a number of years. It grows quite tall and benefits from regular pruning.

Rosemary can be grown from cuttings and adds a wonderful flavour to meat and vegetable dishes. It is best known for perfectly complementing lamb dishes and its woody stems make great skewers.

Chives (sun, perennial)

A member of the onion family, chives thrive in sunny spots with slightly moist soil. Chives can be grown in the garden or in pots and have pretty pink flowers in summer that are edible and make a good addition to salads.

The outer leaves of chives can simply be snipped off when required and the herb is an essential ingredient for potato salads.

While often being used as a garnish, chives add bright colour and mild, oniony flavour to soups, dressings, and dips, along with many egg and potato-based dishes.



Time to renew your membership!

Join Kalgoorlie-Boulder's leading community environment group . . .

Name: _____
Date: _____
Address: _____
Postcode: _____
Phone: _____
To receive KBULG news the environmentally friendly way, please provide us with your email address
Email: _____

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORY: (tick one)

- ☐ Business \$100
☐ Financial Membership* \$10
☐ Social Membership (free) (Individual, junior or family)

Number of Adults: _____ Children: _____

*Financial Membership entitles you to have voting privileges and 10% off KBULG purchases.

If you volunteer with KBULG, here are some of the projects you can be involved in:

- ☐ Community Tree Planting Days
☐ Regeneration Zones
☐ Recycling Clean Up Days
☐ Bushwalks
☐ Gardening with Native Plants
☐ Flora and Fauna

☐ I am interested in volunteering (please tick)

Comments: _____

RETURN TO: KALGOORLIE-BOULDER
URBAN LANDCARE GROUP
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Phone: 0418935498
Email: admin@kbulg.org.au

