

FRIENDS OF ALLEN PARK BUSHLAND GROUP



SPRING 2017

As our 20th year of restoration activities draws to a close, we are now into the summer and hope that the occasional rain events will come our way. Rainbow bee-eaters with their shimmering coppery-orange wings have been seen soaring over the treetops, a sure indication that summer has arrived.

Nightstalk

The year could not be complete without a nightstalk. Joe Tonga led the walk using his gadgets to help detect wildlife close by. Despite lightning and rumbles of thunder in the distance, several possums and a cluster of scorpions were noted. These beasts can be detected as they have an iridescent glow under ultraviolet torchlight. Thanks to the City of Nedlands for the edible delights that followed.

Allen Park Tennis Club

It came to light at the Allen Park Master Plan workshop that the Allen Park Tennis Club wish to extend their boundary to include up to 4 hard courts at the western end. A few of us assessed the area and although there is an extensive canopy due to a number of acacia trees there, there is no understorey due to the lack of sunlight. This is not an area that we have managed traditionally (despite the fact that we planted all the shrubs there in 1999), and we believe that there is an opportunity to assist in plant selection to recover the canopy, provide a natural screening of Rottneest Island Cypress and acacias for neighbours and rehabilitate the Wembley wax plants in the area if the plans are realised. As we stand to gain other areas for revegetation around the perimeter of Allen Park (northern end of the beach oval and the south-eastern corner of the car overflow area near Odern crescent) we believe this to be an acceptable trade off.

AGM

The AGM was held at the new Allen Park Pavilion building and guest speaker Leanda Mason (Curtin University PhD candidate) delivered a very interesting talk on trapdoor spiders. We now know what to look for and will be on the look out for signs when we are in the bush in the future. Their longevity almost blew us away and drew new admiration for them.

The committee members were returned for another year of office, with Judy Herring: Secretary, Anne Allison: Treasurer, Lesley Shaw: President, Sue Hayes: Vice-President, John and Frances Gilmour also returned as social committee members.

Volunteers have contributed over 680 hours to the bushland around Allen Park - so thanks for help with on-ground activities and/or administrative duties.

Allen Park Master Plan

The much-anticipated Master Plan for Allen Park has been a preoccupation for many Allen Park users this year, and we are at the cusp of having the Master Plan adopted. Members are urged to attend the **City of Nedlands meeting at the Council Chambers on the 19th December** to show support for the plan. It was recommended to go to Full Council at the Committee Meeting on Tuesday 4th December (with 2 abstentions and 3 absent). It is important that the plan is adopted, as we do not want to repeat the failings of 2010 when the plan should have been passed at Council level. Please make an effort to attend.

The Walkway

The story of the Walkway continues, and has a long history. Some will know that Lot 353 (the Walkway) gave rise to FOAP. In brief, in 1993 the site was at risk of becoming a retirement village and the community was outraged. Going back a bit, in 1978, the Minister for Lands issued a Conditional freehold title over Lot 353, granting it to the City that it could be used for the purpose of "Home for the Aged". Many will know that there was an element of corruption in the process of the sale of land to a developer, which resulted in the City being sacked. The Allen Park community, reeling from the shock that such a beautiful area with its large marris and tuarts could have been bowled over, moved quickly to have the land assessed, resulting in it being listed with the National Trust on its Classified Places register. The land, through persistence of members in the community, was rezoned "Recreation" at Council in 1998, and gazetted as "Recreation" in 2000 and has been managed for conservation ever since.

Fast forward to 2017, and the Government's Land Assets Sales Program identified the area was not being used for its perceived purpose, (they'd still assumed it was meant for aged care despite gazettal) and should be transferred back to the State unless the City could prove otherwise. The government was proposing to sell off adjoining portion (Lot 139), and the remaining area (Lot 353, most of the Walkway), be amalgamated into the A Class Reserve. The City of Nedlands would not be beneficiaries of this sale, as the money would go back into the State's coffers. We are still in limbo in this regard, and will follow the matter closely. What does come home to us is the importance of consolidating zoning and land tenure in Allen Park. This is an issue that has been the thorn in the side for over 20 years.

Plans for 2018

It may prove to be a busy year ahead as we have plans to raise a grant for the refurbishment of the Allen Park cottage. See attached poster!

There may also be new sites to revegetate although it may be a couple of years in the making as site preparation is the key to success. Seed collection is underway and the seed bank at APACE is looking good.

Summer watering is going to be focused on Sayer Street (north side), with small groups of 4 volunteers needed to complete the task. We are going to need to water on the 19th December and the 9th January, so if able to lend a hand on one of these dates, your help would be much appreciated. Our lengthy hose is able to reach the western limit but there will be a few plants needing to be watered with watering cans.

We trust you will have a joyous end to the year and hope to see you when activities resume early March. Tuesday's group will resume in February and focus on watering seedlings. Please be on the look out for any suspicious behaviour and report to relevant authorities.

Memberships are now due, and if you were present at the AGM, we thank you for your ongoing support. If you would like to continue to receive quarterly newsletters, please complete below:

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The Treasurer FRIENDS OF ALLEN PARK BUSHLAND GROUP INC. 16 Lynton Street, Swanbourne, 6010.

Membership: Individual (\$10) Family (\$15)

NAME:

ADDRESS:

Email:

Tel: (Home) (Wk) (Mob)

Electronic fund transfers to: Friends of Allen Park Bushland Group BSB: 036 034 A/C.: 193802

Note: Please include your name in any EFTs.

Written by L. Shaw for FOAPBG.



