

HISTORY OF THE FRIENDS ON INGLEWOOD TRIANGLE

A local Community Group concerned about the degradation at the Triangle formed in the early 1990s and developed a program of action and rehabilitation. In 1991 the Group wrote to the City of Stirling highlighting the damage the City's actions were having on the Triangle's vegetation. Of particular concern was the slashing of weeds and other vegetation. In December 1992 a joint grant application was made by Inglewood Ward Ratepayers and Progress Association for rehabilitation work to reinstate remnant bushland and requesting funding to clean up the site; install signage; install track work; undertake seed collection; weed eradication; revegetation and fencing.

The Group again wrote to the City in 1993 highlighting the damaging effect on the bushland from slashing/ mowing of edges/ grading of tracks encouraging rubbish dumping / stacking of material for road works. They requested work for: fencing; track repairs; removal of rubbish by hand; control of Veldt Grass by selective spraying. All this work would assist in protecting the bushland consistent with the City's Green Plan. In August 1993 the Inglewood Ward Ratepayers and Progress Association asked that the Triangle be excised from the overall reserve (Class A Reserve 18325 – for recreation) and set aside as a separate reserve – A class – to protect flora and fauna and for educational purposes. In 1993, the National Trust advised it had assessed and classified the area to be of natural heritage significance. Botanical surveys were conducted by Annie Gottschalk and Mary Gray in 1993 – 94 flora species were recorded at the Triangle.

The City Council resolved to excise Inglewood Triangle from Reserve "A" 18325 – and that it be set aside as a separate reserve for the purpose of preservation of landscape and vested in the City of Stirling. In 1995 records show 35 people turned up for a wildflower walk in the Triangle lead by Rob Schmidt of the Inglewood Ratepayers Association. Annual weeding and walks continued to be held until the end of 1999. For some time after this the Group faded as members left and there was not an interest from the surrounding community.

In 2007 the Friends of Inglewood Triangle was revived and the current wave of rehabilitation, conservation and education activity has been continuous since then – nearly 8 years of community involvement. In those early years spraying of weeds was tackled by the City using mainly Metsulfuron (for Oxalis, Freesia, Fumaria, Black Flag and Bridal Creeper) and Pantera for Veldt Grass. As early as 2007 the Friends raised concerns that the deaths of tree and other vegetation may possibly be due to the spraying regime. In 2010 the Friends asked that all spraying at the Triangle be stopped and that the Friends would attempt to manage the weeds by hand weeding.

Since 2007 the friends have developed a close relationship with several schools in the area as well as with the Bush Cadets at Mount Lawley Senior High School. Recently the Perth College Kindergarten "adopted" the Triangle and have committed to helping the Friends in general conservation work. We have also held annual Clean Up Australia Days and advertised them in the local community.

Over the years the membership numbers have remained fairly constant and a small band of volunteers regularly weeds at the Triangle on Wednesdays and Sunday morning – usually between Easter and the first week of December each year.

In 2012 the Friends were successful in receiving a Department of Conservation Community Grant to install some information boards and signage at the Triangle. The Friends provided the words and photos for the signs and the City arranged their design and manufacture. The signs were installed in June 2014.

The work of the Friends over the past 7 years has kept the grassy weeds in Section A and in parts of Section C to a low and manageable level. Following a very successful weeding program in 2014, involving selective herbicide spraying for Veldt Grass and approximately 100 hours of volunteer labour via Conservation Volunteers Australia (CVA), weediness in Sections A, B and C are all now at a manageable level. However, Section D (the most degraded Section) still has extensive coverage of grassy weeds and a higher risk assessment.

More detail on 2014 activities and achievements can be found in the January 2015 e-News.