

# FRIENDS OF ALLEN PARK BUSHLAND GROUP

AUTUMN 2016



**Yes, winter is coming and good rains in Swanbourne through autumn have set the conditions to be ideal for planting. Every effort will be made to get in early, so please come on down and bring your neighbours! Our first planting day will be on the 4<sup>th</sup> June along Sayer Street. Read on for more detail.**

## **Seaward Village Review**

Lieutenant-General Evans delivered his much anticipated report to Canberra and the announcement outside Campbell Barracks on the 26<sup>th</sup> April was a welcome relief for many of the Defence Force families and the community at large. This outcome is a result of our community working together to demonstrate the proposed DHA model was flawed, and that it is not a fit for Seaward Village. Many worked tirelessly on this campaign, and thanks go to all those involved. Looking out from Melon Hill especially when the Carnaby's cockatoos are flitting in and out of the canopies across this quiet valley, there's a sense that what has been done, is just.

The Seaward Village Working Party set up at the behest of the community and the City of Nedlands, has since met to discuss whereto from here. DHA offered reassurance confirming that they are not increasing density; not changing lot boundaries; refurbishment of village houses will be house-by-house basis; no Improvement Scheme - normal Town Planning Scheme process; if residents are happy about Sayer St changes, then DHA accepts that. It is expected that residents will be consulted regarding the refurbishment process during June.

## **Sayer Street survey**

The proposed changes to access to Sayer Street were advertised on the 5<sup>th</sup> May and submissions encouraged via the City of Nedlands' website. These changes bring about closure to a process that was instigated 20 years ago during the development of Seaward Village, when the community was advised that Sayer Street would be open right through for 18 months and then closed. It's been a long stretch of time, but the process should reach fruition by the 26<sup>th</sup> July, according to the advertisement directed by our CEO, Greg Trevaskis. The results of the survey are being reported to Council on the 7<sup>th</sup> June, **but we need your help to ensure that our Councillors are on board with the community sentiment that is reflected in the survey (95% in favour of the road changes, including support from Seaward Village residents).**

**Please contact Councillors directly on this matter**

**<http://www.nedlands.wa.gov.au/councillors-and-executive>**

While the route has turning points at either end, emergency vehicles will be able to gain access should there be an emergency. The integrity of the A-Class reserve can be reinstated at last. A tidy up is scheduled before planting on the 4<sup>th</sup> June as many old acacias have reached the end of their life (planted by Swanbourne Primary school students in 1999) and we propose to plant in the area.

### **Excursion to Kaarakin**

On the 2<sup>nd</sup> April a few members had the privilege of meeting close hand the much-talked about and loved cockatoos at Kaarakin, in Martin near Gosnells. The dedication of the staff and volunteers there was palpable. These birds pictured here are unable to be released due to the severity of their injuries. Those more fortunate launch into a well designed recovery program including test flights in a purpose built pre-release aviary.



*Tony with a new friend at Kaarakin*

It was most uplifting to get an insight into what's involved and how dependent the organization is on the public purse albeit a species that may not be around in 50 years if habitat loss continues on the current trajectory. We highly recommend a trip out to see them and your dollars go to this worthy cause!



*Judy and Sue handing over*

### **Urban bushland under threat**

The past couple of months have been tough on many bushland groups across the metro area

due to the number of major submissions regionally and locally out for public comment: including the Perth and Peel Green Growth Plan; Banksia Woodlands to be declared a Threatened Ecological Community; Bold Park Management Plan; Nedlands' Local Planning Strategy; as well as submissions to avert further erosion of green spaces in our suburbs - Shenton Park Rehabilitation Hospital, and a new Secondary School in City Beach. Ironically, the drive is to increase density, clear small bushland areas, yet there's a push to increase greenways, canopy cover to combat Urban Heat Island effects and improve our wellbeing. So much so that a group of likeminded individuals is coming together to work to stem the tide of greyness flooding our city. This group is a collection of friends' group representatives, Councillors and council staff from across the western suburbs. It holds promise to deliver a culture of pride in treasuring our natural landscape and valuing trees on private and public land and working to double the urban canopy. This is a trend happening across the country. Melbourne already bids to reach 40% canopy cover by 2040. Here in Perth there's a lot to get right first, essentially the flawed *Biodiversity Conservation Bill* before the House, which is an attempt to improve on the decrepit *Wildlife Conservation Act 1950*. Unless the legal framework is remedied, we will continue to witness extinction in our own back yards. "Perth's Urban Forest" is a good starting point - visit <http://greens.org.au/wa/wa2.0/perths-urban-forest>

### **Green up at home**

Native plant sale like no other : APACE Nursery, 1 Johannah St North Fremantle.

Seedlings \$1.50 - subsidised by WESROC councils, get in quick before the end of the month!

### **Cottage 118 Wood Street**

The future of the cottage currently used by the FOAPBG came into question recently after a property assessment. Being an early settlement home, it's in a state of disrepair, needs restumping among other things and considered by some to be fit for demolition. This was most disturbing as it constitutes the last original cottage in the Heritage Precinct and holds a commanding position on the southern slope of Melon Hill. Realising we knew so little about the cottage's long history (built somewhere between 1921-27), a couple of our members have done

some sleuthing, and it turns out it has a colourful history. So much so that we aim to hang onto this little cottage but need to build a case for its retention, including cost for its restoration. **If anyone has a builder friend, heritage architect we would welcome some input!**

### **Wembley Waxes**

Update on the local Wembley wax plants - our intention is to plant and nurture the local species this coming winter and slowly remove the introduced variety without impacting on the wrens. Judy has done a superb job nurturing the seedlings and they are looking magnificent. They will be planted during our first planting morning on the **4<sup>th</sup> June**.

The meeting place is at the cottage near the Allen Park pavilion building, and if you are running late there's always a sign indicating our whereabouts. So why not come on down for a couple of hours?

**Following planting days: 18<sup>th</sup> June in the Boobook Sector.  
2<sup>nd</sup> July Seaward Corridor**

**and Tuesdays from 9-11am  
Please bring gloves**

### **Opportunities to get involved:**

**First Saturday of the month** (unless advised) to carry out a variety of activities to sustain the Allen Park bushland. We generally meet from 9-11am (except during November, December and March when we meet at 8am to beat the heat). We meet first at the FOAPBG cottage near the cricket oval. Instructions are left on a whiteboard outside the cottage with the activity of the morning and a map indicating the whereabouts of the group should anyone arrive late.

Alternatively, there is also a small group who meet on a **Tuesday morning** (9.00 – 11.00) throughout the year. This is a good time to come along if the weekend proves difficult. Volunteering is a great way to meet locals and the exercise is free!

### **Adopt-A-Plot**

If you find it impossible to make it to our weekend activities, we are willing to follow the trend and offer greater flexibility to get you involved. By adopting a space (5mx5m) you can contribute to caring for the bushland. We can provide training in weed identification among other things. This could also be a means to combat the quantity of herbicide that is administered on our reserves too.

Contact us if you are interested. Ring either 93847983 or 93831501, or email [foapbg@gmail.com](mailto:foapbg@gmail.com)  
You can also visit us on the Urban Bushland Council's website at <http://www.bushlandperth.org.au/member-groups/3-north-of-the-river/44-friends-of-allen-park-bushland>

### **Community news**

#### **Swanbourne Master Plan**

Westside Wolves are still interested in the beach oval and old bowling greens. With the Swanbourne Master Plan (SMP) in place, it will provide the mechanism to prevent undesired developments around the beach oval and surrounding area. Nedlands' recent Local Planning Strategy identified the SMP is a priority for Swanbourne, but needs Council to support and allocate funds to commence the project in the coming financial year and rolled out over the next few years if necessary.