

# FRIENDS OF ALLEN PARK BUSHLAND GROUP



AUTUMN 2017

The autumn newsletter is coming early this year to ensure that members and supporters are aware of upcoming events. As it is now 20 years since the first sod of earth was dug to allow marri and banksia seedlings to be planted in Allen Park, and weeds to be pulled, it was considered timely to share images and interesting newspaper clippings from that memorable day. Note the bareness of the verge at Tom Collins!



School students watch Tom Fremantle and Lesley Shaw plant a tree.

## Family roots

**T**HE Fremantle family has put down new roots in WA with English marathon cyclist Tom Fremantle planting a tree outside writer Tom Collins' historic house at Allen Park, Swanbourne.

Mr Fremantle rode 19,000km from Swanbourne, Buckinghamshire — home of the Fremantles since 1798 — to its WA namesake.

Swanbourne was named after the home village of his great, great, great, great uncle, Admiral Charles Howard Fremantle, who arrived in WA in 1829.

Fremantle was named after him.

The Friends of Allen Park planting was

part of bush regeneration efforts. Year 6 and 7 students from Swanbourne Primary School planted 60 trees outside Tom Collins' 90-year-old house, which was moved last year from Servetus Street to a historical precinct in the park.

The move was part of the Allen Park and Environs Management Plan adopted by the Nedlands City Council to help regenerate coastal and bush areas while also addressing the needs of sporting groups.

To help raise funds for the regeneration program, the Friends are selling a special T-shirt (\$20 or \$10 for child's size). Tel. Lesley Shaw, (08) 9384 7983.



Swanbourne Primary students planting banksias

Post Newspaper July 1997

Guest of honour, Tom Fremantle, received a T-shirt to commemorate the launch of the Allen Park Management Plan, at the bushland group's first tree planting event. The Management Plan outlined specific strategies and recommendations to conserve the biological values, ecological functions and to increase the area of bushland within the park.





Today, the marri stands over 10m tall, and despite the loss of a limb due to storm damage several years ago, the tree appears to be in good health. This is more than can be said for a number of trees in the Heritage Precinct in Allen Park that have suffered the effects of fungal attack and since died. The City of Nedlands commissioned an investigation into tree loss across the region. The pathogen, *Armillaria luteobubalina* (Australian Honey Fungus) is found across southern Australia and commonly associated with the decline of Perth's urban forest. Although infected specimens have been removed from the site and infected soil with it, it is impossible to eradicate the pathogen without extensive damage to the surroundings. The trees' best defence is for affected trees around the site to be injected with nutrients, and developing healthy bacteria to compete and combat the spread of the fungus.



*Judy and Lesley are dwarfed by Tom Fremantle's marri tree.  
Mattie Furphy's cottage can be seen through the undergrowth.*

### **Watering roster**

Anticipating the onset of early autumnal rains, it was considered that watering seedlings in the walkway and on Sayer Street would come to an end before Easter. However, rain hasn't been sufficient and it is likely that watering will need to continue for another session or two. On a number of occasions there had been a good turn out of volunteers, including students clocking up community volunteering hours, making the job so much easier for everybody - much appreciated. It is hoped that help will be able to assist on **Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> of May between 9 and 11am**, unless it rains before then.

The timber fence at the cottage had fallen into disrepair, and was dismantled at the May bushcare day. Some slats were suitable enough to be donated to the Mayo Community Garden, and the rest only good enough for firewood. The seedling enclosure now needs securing to prevent rabbits from devouring the plants before they arrive early June for the winter planting season. **Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> May** will be the earliest opportunity to carry out that task, so helper will be welcome.

### **FOAP cottage**

Continuing with the historical theme, below are images taken in 2003 of the east facing side of the cottage before a Green Corps team dismantled the dense thicket of Japanese pepper at the side and rear of the property. It was a formidable task but excellent team building skills were on display that week!



The bank was graded before the path was laid leading to the rear door. Since then the area has been planted extensively. The front entrance to the cottage is difficult to access and no longer in use.



*Photos: Courtesy S. McCabe*

The bushland group has expressed the need to progress with repairs and restump the cottage, and is willing to raise a grant to fund the work in a joint venture with the City of Nedlands. As this cottage is the last remaining one of its era in the Allen Park locality, it functions well as a meeting place, has a commanding view over the park, and worth preserving.

### Nedlands' Natural Areas Appreciation Event

Annually, the City provides bushland volunteers with a thank you event, allowing the shire's bushland groups to gather and share their experiences over the year. This year, conditions on Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> May were ideal for those who arrived at Swanbourne Beach to be guided by experienced *Birdlife* volunteers along the coastal dunes. Numerous Singing honeyeaters were vocal and visible, while other observers spotted Weebills further up in the Seaward Corridor. A White-browed scrubwren flitted ahead of one of the groups and perched long enough to allow a good look at its speckled breast. It was also the Swanbourne Coastal Alliance's 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration, so morning tea near the beach was most enjoyable.

### Community news

Shortly before Easter, umbrella group Friends of Allen Park hosted an information gathering session to establish what locals feel about Allen Park and its surrounds. The intent was to inform the City of Nedlands of community sentiment leading in to the formulation of the Allen Park Master Plan process. It is important for the community to express and share the values that Allen Park offers. To broaden the demographic input towards the Master Plan there will be another gathering to share the material already collated, and to encourage more feedback. The event will take place **at the Allen Park Tennis Club** on the **21<sup>st</sup> May between 3pm and 6.30pm**. Starting with a 30-minute presentation, people will have an opportunity to talk and share views, and entertainment will follow, with the funky band Kalahari Busmen playing their music. The bushland group will put on a sausage sizzle to help raise much-needed funds for the cottage restoration project. There will be an opportunity to place orders for Allen Park T-shirts (similar to the one worn by Tom Fremantle in the newspaper cutting). All going well, samples should be on display.

Interested in joining the bushland group? Email Judy on [jhe74786@bigpond.net.au](mailto:jhe74786@bigpond.net.au)  
Or fill out and return the form below.

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

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

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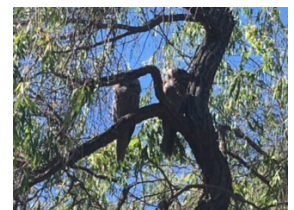
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Electronic fund transfers to: Friends of Allen Park Bushland Group BSB: 036 034 A/C.: 193802

**Note:** Please include your name in any EFTs.



Tawny frogmouths

