

# FRIENDS OF ALLEN PARK BUSHLAND GROUP



**SUMMER 2016**

If you are new to Swanbourne or live close to Allen Park, you can't help but appreciate "Melon Hill", the forested dune north of the playing fields and the lovely bushland surrounding it. We are a small band of volunteers involved in the care of the bushland remaining around Allen Park. We would really welcome you getting involved. If you are passionate about Swanbourne's little gem, perhaps you might contemplate helping us out for a couple of hours a month?

We produce this newsletter at the end of each season - there's always lots of news to share! All members receive a copy. We are a non - profit organization and rely on memberships, grants and funding from Nedlands Council to undertake a vast array of activities associated with keeping our bushland healthy.

As you may be aware, the Allen Park precinct has been in the spotlight recently due to the proposed redevelopment of Seaward Village by Defence Housing Australia. Authorities are aware that the broader Swanbourne community is not satisfied with the proposal, and the process of its delivery. The Review has been conducted and Lieutenant-General Evans will have completed and delivered his report which will rest with the Minister for Defence and go to Cabinet. On Friday 19<sup>th</sup> February our Federal member for Curtin, Julie Bishop, gave us the time to visit the area, take a walk up Melon Hill, and listen to our concerns.

## **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!

Contact us if you are interested in coming along in the future. 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>

Although autumn is upon us, there are still hot days ahead and we encourage you to keep a watchful eye on the bush and report any suspicious behaviour to respective authorities. If there's a fire, report immediately to 9382 2222. Please also beware of bobtails, goannas and snakes, which are very active now. We urge dog owners to keep dogs on leads to protect wildlife and encourage owners to pick up after their four legged friends and make use of the dog poo bins.

## **Watering roster**

**Poor rainfall over the past two seasons has put a lot of stress on last year's seedlings and unless we water them the losses will be great. Please support our group and register to help with the watering.**

**Clean Up Australia Day** as usual falls on the long weekend in March. We did not register for an event at Allen Park but encourage park users to help keep our area tidy grab a plastic bag and gloves and with a clean up in mind, take a walk, or walk the dog around areas on the perimeter of the reserve, as this is where most of the rubbish is collected, particularly opposite building sites.

**Bird life**

Bird lovers delight in the variety of bird life in Allen Park. Carnaby's Cockatoos are regular visitors, as are the migratory Rainbow bee-eaters that can be seen flitting about Melon Hill. Raptors are often sighted in the area but generally not resident. However leading up to Christmas the Heritage Precinct was home to another breeding pair of goshawks.

**Flora**

Geraldton waxes are waning.....

Geraldton wax is a well-known species and as the name suggests, is not a local. Friends of Kings Park have germinated local Wembley wax plants to replace the introduced variety growing on the road reserve along Sayer Street and along the walkway. This area happens to be a favoured breeding area for a family of Variegated fairy-wrens. Our intention is to plant and nurture the local species this coming winter and slowly remove the introduced variety without impacting on the wrens. In the meantime, around 50 plants are being cared for by our Secretary Judy.

**Join us on 12<sup>th</sup> March from 8am-10am for the first bushcare morning of 2016.** We will be watering and checking green bags and stakes.

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 don't you don your hat, sunscreen and bring your enthusiasm, and come on down for a couple of hours?

**Excursion**

**Following the excellent presentation by Kaarakin Black Cockatoo Conservation Centre at our AGM last November, a group outing to the Centre is being scheduled for Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> April during the morning. Time to be confirmed. Cost is \$15 per person. Register your interest now as numbers are limited. This event will substitute our bushcare morning for April.**

**The following bushcare morning will be on 2<sup>nd</sup> May.**

**Community news**

Mayo Community Garden will be hosting Earth Hour on the 19th March 5pm to 9pm with offerings of free food, music, and colourful activities, courtesy of Cottesloe and Nedlands Councils.

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**Memberships are now due. Please note individual membership fee is now \$10 and family \$15.** Your support is essential for the wellbeing of our bushland. Please fill out your details below and return to:

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

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

NAME: .....

ADDRESS: .....

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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.