

FRIENDS OF ALLEN PARK BUSHLAND GROUP



SPRING 2014

Spring has been everything we could have hoped for, milder conditions and intermittent rainfall over the past couple of months. Last year Swanbourne recorded 1.6mm rain during November (on the last day of the month), and this year the reading was 19.4mm, so we can count our lucky stars that we've not had to water plants on Flyash Hill as yet. However, the warmer weather is on its way, so we would like to hear from you if you can offer to water for an hour or so once or twice through the hot months ahead.

Surprises in Allen Park

A Brown goshawk has taken up residence in the Heritage Precinct and is feeding 2 young in her nest. A Tawny frogmouth is a resident in the area too.

A most elusive resident (only been spotted on a few occasions) has now been identified as a common pheasant!

Annual Nightstalk

Ten people gathered for the annual Tronox Nightstalk on the 19th September, encountering two brush-tailed possums feeding high up in a Tuart tree near Tom Fricker's cottage. As per usual, bats and Boobook owls were heard in the vicinity, and a Tawny frogmouth shot across the beam of our torchlight and alighted in a tree nearby, and looked quite put out (or was it curious??). We also came across a large and most unusual spider that can be best described as resembling the nut of a casuarina. It has since been identified (thanks to Mark Harvey at the WA Museum) as a female wolf spider with her brood on her back.



Female Wolf spider with her brood moving across the footpath near the Rugby Club

In September a long-standing affiliate of Allen Park and naturalist, Robert Powell (who now resides in England), paid us a visit to inspect the Native Pellitory plants in the Boobook Sector, and was very pleased to see that the plants have done well again, and indeed have spread through to other areas of Allen Park, including the Seaward Corridor. Robert was also pleased to see the interpretive sign adjacent to a large patch of these butterfly-attracting plants. Robert provided input into the wording of the sign. Some of you may remember Robert instigated the Pellitory project in 1999. Robert also provided invaluable advice regarding local provenance seed, and guidance to where our paths should lead when the Management Plan was instigated in 1996.

On the 6th September we celebrated national Bushcare's Major Day Out, with families and friends enjoying a walk "From Wall to Wall" and the bush in between. This also celebrated the completion of the 'Allen Park Project: Stage 2', funded by Lotterywest in association with our group, Swanbourne Primary School, Department of Defence and the City of Nedlands. We now have distinctive entrances into the bushland and interpretive signs including a much needed 'You are Here' sign – a schematic map for those visiting Allen Park, or perhaps following the Bush to Beach Trail. Look out too for the sign about the Carnaby's Cockatoo and another explaining the exploits of the Yellow Admiral butterfly.

We were invited to host a stall at the Swanbourne Primary School Fair in September. We displayed photos of the Project from its inception to completion - involving many of the students from the school.

AGM

The AGM took place at Mattie Furphy's again this year, and we enjoyed a presentation on reptiles by Nedlands' Environmental Conservation Officer, John Stuart. The committee was elected unopposed. Returning officers include: Lesley Shaw (President), Judy Herring (Secretary), Anne Allison (Treasurer), Frances and John Gilmour, Joan Sharpe (social members), and new-comer Sue Hayes.

A vote was carried to increase membership fees to \$10.00 (single), \$15 (family).
(*President's report has been included as an attachment*).

Final Bushcare Day for 2014

Saturday 6th December: 8-10am with Bush brekkie after. Meet at the cottage. Please bring gloves and wear long sleeves.

We will reconvene on the **14th of March**. Seasons Greetings to all our members!

Memberships are now due. Please note individual membership fee is now \$10 and family \$15. If you wish to continue receiving a quarterly newsletter, please complete the following:
If you were unable to attend the AGM and would like to pay your membership fees now, please fill out your details below and return to:

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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:

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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.

