

FRIENDS OF ALLEN PARK BUSHLAND GROUP



SUMMER 2017

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 and appreciate the work done in the park, you might consider joining us or making a donation (see details overleaf).

2017 marks 20 years since the first seedlings were planted on the verge of Tom Collins' House with Swanbourne Primary School students and Tom Fremantle, who'd ridden from Swanbourne England, to Swanbourne Perth. Covering 19000km, Tom raised funds for a charity and his marri tree now stands tall amidst the shrubs near the bend on Kirkwood St.

A quarterly newsletter provides updates on activities and as well as community news. All members receive a copy. As a not for profit organization we rely on memberships, grants and funding from Nedlands Council to undertake a vast array of activities associated with keeping the bushland healthy.



Swanbourne Primary at Tom Collins planting 1997

Fundraising

A quiet moment gave pause for smiles for the camera during a sausage sizzle outside Bunnings at Claremont in January. We are taking every opportunity to raise much-needed funds to allow for the upgrade of the cottage used by the friends group in Allen Park. Since learning that the cottage faced being pulled down due to its condition, and that it is the only original building left in the Heritage



Sausage sizzle at Bunnings

Precinct, volunteers began a quest to find out about its history. Almost 100 years old, the cottage does have a past and a chronology has begun. Aiming to find grant money to restump and do internal repairs should breathe new life into the little place that commands such an imposing view over the fields. The name "Pleasant Valley Cottage" has been mooted; after all, Pleasant Valley Farm occupied much of the land surrounding Allen Park at the turn of the 20th century.



FOAP cottage

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!

There are still plenty of 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.

Watering roster

Poor rainfall during spring 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 fortnightly watering along Sayer Street. Next watering date is 14th February.

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. Take 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 accumulates.

Join us on 11th March from 8am-10am for the first bushcare morning of 2017. We will be watering and checking green bags and stakes around seedlings.

Meet 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?

The following bushcare morning will be 9-11am on 1st April (Don't be fooled!).

Contact us if you are interested in participating. Ring either 93847983 or 93831501, or email 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

Splashfest . Swanbourne Beach oval **12th March**. Gold coin donations for parking go to FOAPBG.

Mayo Community Garden Earth Hour on **25th March** www.facebook.com/MayoCommunityGarden/

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Individual membership fee is \$10 and family \$15. 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.



Image: N. Hills, Rainbow bee-eaters are back to breed in Allen Park