

FRIENDS OF ALLEN PARK BUSHLAND GROUP



Winter 2015



Allen Park has been ablaze with Cockies tongue this winter and a delight to all visitors.

Our regular band of volunteers (thank you!), were out in force to plant over 2000 seedlings through the winter months. The City of Nedlands engaged Ecojobs to finish off what we didn't manage to get in the ground on any given day, and Tuesday's little troop did well at planting too. This has been a strange winter: lots of chilly mornings, high levels of dew, and worryingly very little rainfall. 28/48 rainfall days over winter produced less than 4mm rain, and we are grateful we didn't plant everything in May.

There has been infill planting and management of greenstock, removal of green bags and stakes; and now the joys of weeding lie ahead of us!

Plants have established in the swale to consolidate the link between Flyash Hill and the Seaward Corridor.



View across the swale to Flyash Hill (west of Bridge Club)

The success comes down to summer watering by volunteers and Bushcare officers to ensure more seedlings would survive the dry summer months. Coastwest grant money has been well spent, but could be undone if new sports facilities are presented to Council, including hockey pitches and/or a waterpolo facility on the old bowling greens and beach oval. There is a groundswell of support to reject any proposals for change to these areas before the Swanbourne Master Plan (2010) is reviewed, finalised and accepted by Council.



2010 Odern Crescent: result of
Swan - Alcoa project



2015 Odern Crescent: result of
Coastwest Project

Excitement about the birdlife

Days spent working in the bush deliver wonderful surprises. In the past few weeks there have been two new additions to our bird species list. On the 4th August, while rummaging through the undergrowth for emergent weeds, heads lifted to find the source of a woeful call – and there sat a fluffy unfamiliar bird no one could identify. It was only through dogged determination that John, one of our regular vollies returned that same afternoon to find an adult Horsfield's bronze cuckoo in full plumage, so it's assumed the one spotted earlier that day was a juvenile, which may explain the difficulty experienced in identifying it.



Bronzewing pigeon

Bronze must be the flavour of the month, as just a week later, there was a glimpse of what looked like a Bronzewing pigeon as it scuttled rather uncharacteristically through the undergrowth on Melon Hill, close to the bench on the crest of the hill. The sighting was confirmed a week later, 17th August and the evidence is here! A Common bronzewing captured on camera alighting on a fence in the Seaward Corridor.

Defence Housing Australia's proposal

Little has changed since our previous newsletter in terms of our confidence in DHA's position regarding the future of Seaward Village. Their Community information session on 10th June was little more than a promo-fest for their development, and Concept Plans presented raised the ire of many. It is now clear that there lies a conflict between DHA's function as a commercial developer, and a service provider for safe and secure housing for Defence personnel.

How different are things today? A mix of private and Defence housing in Seaward Village was given the thumbs down in 1991 by the Public Works Committee, on the grounds of compromising the safety of Defence families. Surely post 9-11, urban terrorism has come a lot closer and the question must be asked; is there any less of a threat to the security of our defence forces? Last week's Post newspaper (27/08/15) headline "***Bishop, SAS developer at odds over security***" declared Julie Bishop's position very strongly.

What can you do to help? You are urged to keep writing to the press and local MPs to express your concerns. This redevelopment and land grab should not go ahead.

Over the past three months there have been many letters, emails, meetings, submissions to numerous parties including Nedlands' Council, Ministers, Campbell Barracks, Department of

Planning. Evidently (from the latter) the Improvement Plan has been submitted for consideration to the WAPC, but as yet not been viewed for consideration.

DHA recently circulated its second newsletter, with an imperative that supports their narrative to go straight to the WAPC with an Improvement Plan because of the “National Imperative”. Following a meeting at DHA’s behest with Sayer Street residents, it appears that DHA is shifting position to take less of Melon Hill and move the Childcare Centre, but resolute in redevelopment and selling off land for private development. However, there were no plans offered to allow those present to be reassured, and the question of how much land would be resumed is yet to be determined. They have also announced another “Community Information Session” to be held on Sunday 20th September 10-2pm at the Associates Rugby Club. Tell friends and neighbours it is important they attend.

What has come of this debacle is a more united and resilient Swanbourne community. Having faced adversity before, the community has risen above it. This time, there is an even greater groundswell of support. Let it be said that the larger our membership, the more clout we have as a community group, and to demonstrate this, it is hoped that many will come to this year’s Bushcare’s Major Day Out on 12th September.

Bushcare’s Major Day Out (BMDO)

BMDO is a national initiative to raise awareness about our local natural areas, and how bushcare brings people together to make a difference. The aim is to become as big as “Clean Up Australia Day”. 237 sites have registered for 2015. NSW leads the way in terms of involvement, but WA is growing in numbers. FOAPBG has participated since 2010 and the focus shifts from active participation – weeding mostly at this time of the year, to passive participation – such as going on a walk or bird watching. Following the turbulence of this year, there is cause to reflect on FOAPBG’s 18 years of on-ground contribution to Allen Park and its natural heritage by paying homage to its founder, visionary John Allen. A member of the Roads Board, Claremont from 1920, John served the community for decades, and was instrumental in securing the areas locals and visitors alike enjoy and treasure today. John Allen’s words “ *natural gardens and a lookout ... for the peoplefor all time*” will resonate. So, in support of John Allen’s caring and love for the bush, come and join in:

Date: 12th September

Time: 9 – 11am.

Venue: Meet at the FOAPBG cottage (nearest the Allen Park Pavilion building)

Activities: There will be a weeding session, to remove ‘Pretty Betsy’ and an exciting planting activity lies in stall. For many years there has been an imperative to replace introduced Geraldton wax with a local species, Wembley wax. Fortune has it that some have finally become available. The intention is to plant them in the location of the Geraldton wax as this is the preferred habitat for one of the Variegated fairy-wren family groups. A customary morning tea will follow at the cottage.

Sayer Street is – not-a-street

For the record Sayer St traverses A Class Reserve (Reserve 19283, Parks and Recreation) and has done so since the early 1980’s. John Allen worked hard to ensure the Claremont Roads Board purchased a number of lots/land parcels that constitute Reserve 19283. Of considerable interest is that in 1937 the Commonwealth acquired land on which Seaward Village and Campbell Barracks are currently located, including Melon Hill, however, it did NOT acquire Reserve 19283.

Considered a temporary option to access the old army houses (long before Seaward Village), the road slipped into the landscape and everyone grew to accept it and drive over it without giving it a second thought. So, what we have is an unofficial/illegal road, where in fact Sayer St is a cul-de-sac – a short stretch of a road – and extends in a westerly direction from the junction

of Jameson St to the boundary of Lot 150, adjacent to the crossing from the Boobook Sector, a distance of just 130 metres.

The significance of this is that DHA proposes all the traffic from Seaward Village AND the 160 privately owned properties AND users of the new childcare facility proposed for the eastern end of the village, will share this road in and out – increasing traffic flow significantly. Carrying traffic for the purposes of access to a private residential subdivision is in direct conflict with the purposes of the A Class Reserve.

The relevance of this is that the Council will support installation of signage to alert users of the road that they are traversing A Class Reserve, both at the eastern and western side of Reserve 19283. In addition Council will not support DHA's push to use Sayer St for access to their development, and DHA should find another solution other than existing roads within the Swanbourne community.

COMING UP.....

PLEASE NOTE

THE NEXT BUSHCARE DAY WILL BE THE **BMDO ON 12TH SEPTEMBER
9-11am. Meet at the cottage first.**

**The following bushcare session will be 3rd OCTOBER
Meet at the cottage 9am – 11am.**

10am 20th September

Annual Bush to Beach walk – Star Swamp, Trigg Bushland, Lake Gwellup and Carine Open Space.

Register now for

<http://bushtobeachwalk.blogspot.com.au>

Interested in becoming a member and devoting a couple of hours a month?

Ring either 93847983 or 93831501, or email foapbg@gmail.com

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>

.....
If you wish to contribute an annual membership fee and continue receiving a quarterly newsletter, 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:

.....

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.

Written by L. Shaw for Friends of Allen Park Bushland Group

