

FRIENDS OF ALLEN PARK BUSHLAND GROUP



Winter news 2019

It was a busy time in Allen Park over the winter months, with major planting days in the Boobook Sector, edging the sports field near the rugby club, and on the east facing slope of Flyash Hill. A big thanks again to Judy, who provided hearty soups as sustenance to the volunteers afterward planting sessions. Tuesday's group continued to plant in patches over the course of 6 weeks. This included 23 species amounting to 1780 seedlings, all local provenance and grown by APACE Nursery in North Fremantle.



Getting ready to plant on the embankment

Fungi Foray with Roz Hart



Searching for fungi on the slope above the Mayo Community Garden

Frequent wet and wintry days provided ideal conditions for fungi all over the region. Luckily, we were able to find a window of opportunity to look for fungi in Allen Park with Roz and Laurton whose busy schedules include assisting groups like ours to search for and build on fungi inventories. An impressive 29 specimens were recorded that morning.



Tuesday Group Planting Tuarts in Allen Park

Tuarts in Allen Park have a special place in many peoples' hearts. They are majestic, and sustain hundreds of residents - be it invertebrates, fungi, birds, mammals and reptiles. Recently the Tuart was given the status of "Threatened Ecological Community" due to the decline of the species in the south-west. Years ago, all the Tuarts in Allen Park were assessed for health and measured.

The largest measured 515cm around the girth and is one of a cluster of three magnificent giants that stand in the Boobook Sector.

Nature play unchecked

One of the many challenges 'friends of' groups face in the metro area, is the clearing of vegetation to make way for 'off the track' bike obstacle courses.



Bike track in the making. A snail orchid patch lies about 1.5m left of the sign

Sadly, plants are pulled out of the ground or chopped down to make way for such activities. Adults reminiscent of their early childhood may have done the exact same thing, innocently oblivious to the destruction caused by their actions. Today, those patches of bush are that much smaller and under a lot more pressure to withstand impacts that urban encroachment has thrown at them. As conservation volunteers, we have to strike that balance, and whilst we may upset a few, we hope through education, that we can encourage respect for the environment we all enjoy. We hope that plans afoot for Nature Play spaces in the Master Plan for Allen Park happen soon, and working with the community to create areas that can be enjoyed by our future custodians.



A Tuart of old laid to rest

Do you recognise this tree stump?

Recently, termite damage caused this old Tuart tree stump to fall to the ground and shake out its residents - including a possum and her joey. Apparently a passer by managed to shoo away predatory ravens and give the possum a chance to resettle elsewhere.

For years the old stump sat at the bottom of the Log-and-Chain path, appearing steadfast and enjoyed by families of galahs and competing little corellas. It now lies where it fell, and sure to become home to a suite of other little creatures.

AGM

This year's AGM on the 1st November will introduce PhD candidate, Kit Prendergast, whose study of honeybees and native bees in the suburbs has created quite a lot of interest across town. Kit gave an informative presentation at the Night Chats at Lake Claremont some time ago, and appeared on Gardening Australia earlier this year.

What's happening in the bushland?

If you're taking a walk through Allen Park, you'll appreciate the abundance of yellow flowering wattles and Native Groundsels. The pellitory plants are flourishing again and the Yellow Admiral butterflies are on the wing. If you see a fast moving butterfly flitting by the chances are it's a Yellow Admiral.



Yellow Admiral butterfly

Note the distinctive cream coloured markings that distinguish them from the Painted Lady and the Western Brown. These butterflies will be laying their eggs on the leaves of the Native pellitory, where they will hatch and the larvae will feed, grow and make shelters to hide from predation by day. In a few short weeks they will pupate and emerge to find a mate while flitting over the hilltops or canopies of the tuarts, to begin the cycle again.

The Walkway

The final stage in the process of including 8 Sayer Street, "The Walkway" into the Allen Park Reserve requires that The Dept of Planning, Lands and Heritage advertise the proposal. Members are invited to make a brief submission in support of the transfer of land (no later than 27th September). As advertised, "The City of Nedlands is proposing to transfer conditional freehold land to the State Government for subsequent revestment and inclusion into adjoining Class 'A' Reserve which is currently set aside for the purpose of 'parklands and recreation' and managed by the City. This proposal will see this lot included for this purpose."

Submissions are to be forwarded to **Katherine McKelvie** at katherine.mckelvie@dplh.wa.gov.au, or telephone **(08) 6552 4427**, or post to the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage, Locked Bag 2506, Perth, WA 6001.

Please visit yourvoice.nedlands.wa.gov.au to view the project.

This is an important parcel of land which has been managed for conservation for more than twenty years in conjunction with the local community and is an important linkage route in Allen Park. This transfer of land will preserve the whole piece of land for future recreational uses and environmental conservation, for the benefit of the City of Nedlands community and wider public.

Next Bushcare Day:

5th October 9-11am TBA

AGM 1st November.6pm - 7.30pm Venue TBA

Written by L. Shaw for FOAPBG



Cockies' last feed before heading off to roost.