

FRIENDS OF ALLEN PARK BUSHLAND GROUP



SUMMER 2020

Residents of old as well as those new to Swanbourne can't help but appreciate "Melon Hill", the forested dune north of the playing fields and the lovely bushland surrounding it. There's a band of volunteers involved in the care of the remnant bushland around Allen Park. If you are passionate about urban bushland why not consider making a small contribution of your time that could make a world of difference? Given the devastating impacts on the environment across Australia, we all need to do more to manage and protect refuges for fauna and flora, and consider how important natural areas are for our health and wellbeing.

Opportunities to get involved:

First Saturday of the month (unless advised) to carry out a variety of activities to sustain the Allen Park bushland. The group generally meets 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!

Allen Park Cottage Project



Looking north towards the Allen Park cottage



Rear view of Allen Park cottage with *Templetonia retusa* (Cockies tongue) flowering in the foreground

We need your help to ensure that the cottage is upgraded. The cottage locally known as the "Allen Park Cottage" is a wonderful community asset and in need of repairs: needing to be restumped, asbestos needs to be removed and modest modifications to bring the building up to scratch. With the Mayo cottage having burnt down in 2009, this cottage is the last original building left in the Heritage Precinct and it has been established that it is almost 100 years old. Sited in the Heritage Precinct are Tom Collins House, Mattie Furphy cottage, and Fricker cottage, which were moved into the precinct during the past 20 years. The need for repair was raised in March 2016 when a structural report was

presented to Council. Time marched on and finally in 2019 the City allocated \$140 000 to be spent on the upgrade in the current financial year. We urge you to let councillors know that the community wants the cottage to be upgraded now. Anticipating further funds will need to be sought to cover costs, then more funds for the cottage should be a budget item for the 2020/21 financial year to minimise the period of disruption. You can also sign our petition to show the community is behind having the cottage restored. The bushland group currently uses the cottage as a meeting place and for storage. "Buy Nothing" and "Repair Lab" as well as MAYO Community Garden Group and Swanbourne Coastal Alliance would also make use of it.

The repairs should breathe new life into the little place that stands so proudly over the playing 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 last century.

Clean Up Australia Day as usual falls on the long weekend in March. This year Swanbourne Primary students will be doing a clean up on **Friday the 28th February** near the beach and near car parks and ovals. The event will start at 9.15am and finish at 10.45am. Let us know if you are able to assist.

Join us on 7th March from 8am-10am for the first bushcare morning of 2020. We will be moving logs to curb erosion near the bench on the hill.

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 on the 5th April will be substituted by the Volunteers Appreciation morning organised by the City of Nedlands at Hollywood Reserve. Starting at 9 and finishing at 11am.

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>

Find us on facebook <https://www.facebook.com/FOAPBG/>

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.

Free Community event: Summer concerts in the park this Sunday 5.30pm.

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:

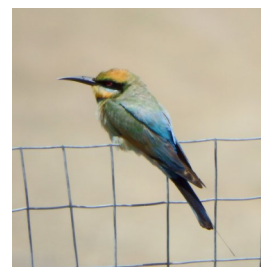
ADDRESS:

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 FOAPBG

*Image: N. Hills, Rainbow bee-eaters
At least 9 birds are back to breed in Allen Park this summer*