

# FRIENDS OF ALLEN PARK BUSHLAND GROUP



## WINTER 2020

Winter is now long gone, but not the memories of masses of vivid red flowering *Templetonia retusa* or Cocky's Tongue over Melon Hill. It is apparent that there is a good floral display by this species every 2 years, and this year was no exception. Fungi abounded and herewith are a couple of impressive examples.



Winter 2020 in Allen Park - *Templetonia retusa* in abundance



Paint fungi growing on a tree stump

## Winter activities



There were just over 2000 seedlings planted around Allen Park, and mostly planted by contractors as Covid-19 limited our capacity to do bushcare as a group. There were a few areas later in winter that a small group were able to plant, including the log-and-chain and along path edges. This was followed up with a back-breaking task to position limestone boulders strategically to reduce rain channels and erosion along the edges of the paths that had undergone repairs. The overall effect is an improvement and should prolong the life of the path network. We expressed our gratitude to the Department of Defence and for the great service provided by their contractors

who were engaged to repair the paths while still allowing public access to Melon Hill. This proved to be a great challenge to them.

Fortunately a couple of energetic park users offered their services and carried a bag of rocks to the top of the hill before continuing on their way. We were most grateful to them.



*Tidying up after moving rocks up Melon Hill*

## Allen Park Cottage



*Credit: Post Newspaper p9 Oct 3 2020*

Many a reader of the Post newspaper would have been delighted to see this article! Late in June, a presentation was made to Council in an appeal to ensure that the \$150 000 set aside for repairs to the cottage would be rolled over for that purpose in the budget for the 20/21 financial year. Our Coastal Ward councillors have worked hard to ensure that the amended motion would be supported. This was granted at the recent general meeting, by a very small margin. The administration is still concerned that the costs will exceed the budget and the next step for us is to work with the City to action the undertaking to prioritise the necessary repairs. The cottage has a BAL rating of FZ (within the fire zone), and will need to meet necessary fire provisions. The vegetation particularly on the western side of the cottage will need to be cut back to satisfy those provisions. The other cottages in the Heritage Precinct also need to meet fuel load provisions, and we are conscious of the need to keep the leaf litter at levels previously seen in the Precinct. Trees will need to be under-pruned and some of the shrubs to be trimmed. We will need to ensure that this is carried out sensitively and minimally.

## Perth Children's Hospital Foundation Hospice Proposal

As everyone knows, the PCHF has the support of government to build a hospice at what looks like to be the favoured site on the old bowling greens near the Bridge Club. There have been suggestions to look rather to alternative sites such as the Sunset Hospital, or the Deaf School. Many will have read articles and letters in the media 'for' and 'against' and justifications, and will have formed their own opinion in regard to this matter.

The Nedlands Council meeting on the 22<sup>nd</sup> September resolved to acknowledge the government's proposal to excise land to build the hospice and to provide the community with the opportunity to form a Site Assessment Working Group to feedback to the City about the proposal. In the meantime, the government is already taking steps to excise the land by a



ministerial order on or after the 30<sup>th</sup> October and has already conducted soil sampling on site, so it appears that their minds are already made up.

It is therefore imperative that the build does not impact on the bushland in any way whatsoever. Whilst there appears to be a blank canvas due to what appears to be 'vacant' bowling greens within the public open space, the vegetation in the swale to the west linking Flyash Hill and the adjacent Seaward Corridor as well as to the north of the fence-line delineating Commonwealth Land is a critical linkage between Melon Hill and the Swanbourne Reserve. The excision of land must therefore incorporate the fire exclusion zone so as not to impact on these linkages whatsoever.

The City has openly declared that the Allen Park Master Plan is in place, and recommendations for the old bowling greens were to provide a community space that 'encompasses and promotes physical activity within a natural environment'. These recommendations included a nature play area, a fenced dog exercise area, outdoor exercise area for all ages, seating, a drinking fountain and ablutions. The Whadjuk Trails network would be realigned to facilitate movement through the area. If some of these recommendations can be accommodated within the available space, then there would be no further changes to the area in the future.

Perhaps the time is now to pose the question - if the government grants a land swap, could Lot 150 (previously residential) on Sayer Street be considered? Surrounded by bush on three sides, this site has been vacant for many years and is not managed as part of the bushland.

### **Upcoming AGM**

Unless there is advice from up on high regarding changes to public gatherings, the AGM will go ahead later in November. Details are still to be finalised. However, there are vacancies this year, as the Treasurer and President advised last year they would not be nominating for the following term. Please consider nominating to undertake one of these roles. If you don't think you have the potential, but know of someone who might, please let us know.

### **Bushcare Activities**

Next bushcare day will be bridal creeper management on 7<sup>th</sup> **November 8-10am** (please note earlier time). Please meet at the cottage before proceeding to the work area.

Contact us: [foapbg@gmail.com](mailto: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>

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