

FRIENDS OF ALLEN PARK BUSHLAND GROUP



SUMMER 2021

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 can play a part and do more to manage and protect refuges for fauna and flora. Consider the benefits of these natural areas on our mental health and physical wellbeing.

Our membership has held strong for over 25 years, and the regular band of volunteers is not getting any younger! There has been a big influx of families into the Swanbourne area, and we'd do well to bring some of them in to lend a hand now and then. We look back all those years when we ourselves also had young families and had to find a balance between family and involvement in the community. Somehow we managed it. It would be really good to have some young blood in the mix, so if you know anyone who may be new to the neighbourhood, or you yourself mightn't have been involved for some time, suggest they come on down with you and try us out - we'd love to have you on board again and bringing a groundswell with you would be a bonus!

Opportunities to get involved:

First Saturday of the month. 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 group's whereabouts should anyone arrive late. As the cottage will be cordoned off during construction, it is anticipated we will meet at the Hollow (amphitheatre) beforehand.

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.

Good news! Allen Park Cottage repairs imminent!

The City administration met with Coastal Ward Councillors on Thursday 18th February and finally agreed that the cottage repairs are to be staged over a 3-year period. Stage 1 is to be rolled this financial year within the amounts already budgeted, to include restumping, roofing, asbestos removal and cladding. Stage 2 will be windows and painting, and Stage 3 to include flooring, cabinetry, etc. The contents of the cottage will need to be placed into storage for the duration of construction. The timeline is yet to be established. Both FOAPBG and the City have put forward an Expression of Interest in applying for a Federal Stronger Communities Grant. It's a small sum, but every dollar helps towards costs.

Swanbourne Beach Oval Coastwest Grant Stage 2

Watch the space alongside Odern Crescent near the beach upper car park entry and exit as preparations for revegetation get underway in coming months. Stage 1 at the northern end of the oval has been hugely successful, bringing 0.4Ha into the reserve. The southern end has a big role to play too - establishing green corridors is important in maintaining not just mammals and reptiles, but

pollinators of native plants, particularly near areas that may have been impacted by fire. They have an enormous role to play in ecosystem health.

Watering seedlings

It is now the norm to be watering seedlings through their first summer. It is impossible to water all 2000 of them, so a focus area is selected and targeted by volunteers once a fortnight. This year's is the log-and-chain and the edges of the path leading up to the cairn on Melon Hill from Sayer Street. Watering falls on Tuesdays (8-9am) and we would love some help.

Snakes and dogs don't mix

Dog owners - please consider the safety of your dog when walking them through the reserve. This image is a reminder that dugites are active in the bushland and it is best to keep your pet on a lead.

Please also beware of bobtails and goannas, 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 as the droppings are unsightly and the odour is very unpleasant.

The wrens are starting to put on a show and more vocal as they come into breeding condition. Be on the look out for these colourful little birds.

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



Dugite in Seaward Corridor Photo credit: W. van Dongen.

If there's a fire, report immediately to 000.

Clean Up Australia Day - 9.30-10.45am Quintillian Primary School is helping tidy up the Allen Park area, and would like some help. Meet at 9.20am on Friday 5th, by the Bridge Club carpark.

Join us on 6th March from 8am-10am for our first bushcare morning of 2021 - we will be watering seedlings and having a clean up at the cottage afterwards. Meet at the Allen Park cottage 8am. Bring gloves.

Contact details: 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/>

Community News

Childrens' Hospice

The proposal to build a childrens' hospice on the grassed area north of the Bridge Club is currently being assessed. An advisory group comprising 12 Swanbourne locals has been formed, and called

SAWG, the Site Assessment Working Group. Members are there to represent the community. It is the intention that our representative, Lesley, will address potential impacts on the environment (adjacent bushland areas) and would welcome your input. SAWG is looking very closely at the community's concerns and issues associated with the prospect of the development going ahead, with the intent to present these issues/concerns to the City of Nedlands' Stakeholder Reference Group. The Project Control Group to which the SRG will direct our communications is made up of a larger collection of individuals including the proponents, the Perth Children's Hospital Foundation. It is understood that the Nedlands' website "Your Voice" will be activated to enable the community to engage in the process and discussions as they arise.

The City of Nedlands is reviewing the number of Wards and Councillors. Let them know what you think. Log on to "Your Voice". Submissions due by 5pm on 1st March. See <https://yourvoice.nedlands.wa.gov.au/review-of-wards>

If your membership has lapsed, please complete the form below and return to:

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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. 53 Kathleen St, Cottesloe, 6011.
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.



Tawny frogmouths are watching! Photo credit: J van Dongen

Written by L. Shaw for FOAPBG