



Winter Newsletter 2022

Looking back over the winter, Swanbourne experienced really low rainfall in June, slightly above average falls in July, yet record rainfall for August, so all in all, a very good season for planting seedlings. Good conditions for the reintroduction of a number of plant species in Allen Park. For more than 25 years, our group has contributed to the overall increase in canopy cover in Allen Park. There is now a shift to focus on planting species that may have occurred in this region but have become locally extinct, or given cause to



bolster those species where there are only one or two specimens left. These include *Banksia attenuata* (slender banksia) *B. menziesii* (firewood banksia), jarrah, grass trees, *Hakea prostrata*, zamia and Coast-beard heath.

Most of these will receive extra watering over the coming months, with an anticipated hot dry summer

much like last year. Our flower emblem, *Templetonia retusa*, put on a spectacular show during a time when little else was flowering in Allen Park. It is now 25 years since we began planting here. Time to celebrate



June planting day

There were 2 major planting days, and Tuesday's group continued planting within focus areas. Efforts were directed towards increasing the variety of plant species and cover in the Boobook Sector, along Sayer Street, Flyash Hill and upward from the rugby club pathway towards the crest of Melon Hill. Visitors will notice the overturned milk bottles adjacent to the less common varieties, in readiness for watering in the months ahead.



Bushcare's Major Day Out 4th September

Groups may recall the days when BMDO was a catch phrase that promoted conservation by communities in local natural areas

across Australia. There was a synergy that enthused bushcarers in the knowledge that many continue to play a part in land care and protecting Australia's diverse and unique biodiversity. For us, the spirit lives on and an event in the first week of September is dedicated to that cause.

It was a gamble to know how the weather was going to pan out for the BMDO, and whether our focus on the importance of pollinators would justify drawing out one of Perth's insect gurus, David Knowles (Spineless Wonders), to guide us through the bushland on what might be a walk on a soggy September morning. It was indeed soggy, but the wealth of David's knowledge was soaked up by all those who braved the conditions. The City's Environmental Conservation Officer Vicki provided a lovely morning tea at Swanbourne Beach at the end of the walk. David will be leading another walk in Allen Park on the 1st October, this time at night time between 7-9pm. Register early as there will be a limit of 12 people for this event. The walk starts and finishes at the Heritage Precinct outside Mattie Furphy's House.

Children's Hospice Proposal

Submissions have been made to the SDAU and it is anticipated that the hearing may be announced at any time. It is understood the turnaround from the time of the announcement /advertisement to the hearing is only 5 days. However, it is assumed that there is still work to be done to address the issues that have come to light through several Freedom of Information requests in relation to community concerns including the DFES report which is significant. Additionally, the suitability of the site in relation to noise levels and the SAS base. There have been several investigative reports aired in local press and numerous letters addressed to the POST.

Our principal concern is the proximity of the site to the bushland and implications for the management of bushland adjacent to the proponent's firebreaks. A meeting on site with president Lesley Shaw and CEO Bill Parker and Director Tony Free was arranged to address the questions that had been minuted at the Council meeting in July and to illustrate the location of the site pegs in proximity to the Seaward Corridor and the impact that an egress out of the site would have on the revegetation through the swale.

Allen Park Cottage

Information has just come to light that the Heritage Architect's report has been presented to the City. Heritage value is now assessed as significant. The administration may consider a retreat from the storage concept and go back to the greater community benefit. It may be some time before it's determined what our position is in relation to occupancy of the cottage into the future.

It is more than 12 months since the fencing was placed around the cottage and when the bushland group moved the furniture and tools to the shed in the Mayo Community Garden. The group is most grateful to MCG to allow continued use of that space. Our group is mindful of that and do not want to overstay our welcome. A course of action may need to be taken depending on the outcome of discussions with the City in that regard.

Occupancy at Tom Collins House

Following advice that the Heritage Precinct could no longer house tenants, there was a great deal of concern for the caretaker and the security of the buildings should there be no 24/7 presence in the Precinct. It is reassuring that there has been a reprieve for the caretaker who is going to be able to stay on at Tom Collins. He is a valuable asset to the community as well as to the Heritage Precinct. Our group values his contribution and tending of the landscaping close by. The verge at Tom Collins abounds with orchids about to bloom including an increased number of Pink fairy orchids pictured here.



Pink fairy orchid

Whadjuk Trail Network

The City of Nedlands' AGM earlier in the year recorded the urgency in completing the Whadjuk Trail over the grassed area from the Bridge Club car park to connect to existing path hugging Flyash Hill and on to the beach oval. This aligns with the recommendations in the Allen Park Master Plan. There would be the opportunity to provide soft landscaping along the path edges. The Mayor was keen to see some artwork displayed there too. This would put a stake in the ground that would deter any future land acquisition by developers (including any considerations to expand the proposed childrens' hospice). The proponents of the hospice gave assurances that would never happen but given the level of distrust within the community the need to complete the path should be elevated at Council. The opportunity to revisit this recommendation will be voiced at the Council Concept Forum meeting on Tuesday 13th September.

Celebrations at the Heritage Precinct

There will be a free community event organised by MHBG at The Hollow on 15th October as a celebration of the arrival of spring, the prospect of the cottage's restoration, the bushland group's continued service to the environment (25 years) and the community is invited to an informal BYO picnic, between 3-5pm. The Whirling Gerberas will provide background music to add ambience to this special place.

UWA Student Recruitment

Last month, the Urban Bushland Council invited bushland groups to display their wares at UWA's Volunteering Day Expo in an effort to recruit enthusiastic students to lend a hand in local bushlands. Thanks to our Secretary Judy, and a representative of Friends of Mosman Park Bushland, they were able to draw attention to a need to engage this age bracket and get them active in the bushland reserves. A couple of people pledged to get involved, and will be welcomed with open arms.

Bush to Beach Walk

There have been a number of successful walks through other parts of Perth, not just between Kings' Park and the coast. Some may recall the walk from Maylands along the river towards the Optus Stadium a few years ago, which was most enjoyable, and this year promises to be a good one too.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 2022

2022 Bush to Beach walk

Begins at Thornlie Train Station, ends at Queens Park Train Station (total approx 9km) - a short walk this year!

1. 10 am - 12 pm - (6 km) Follow Canning River from Thornlie Train Station - Lunch spot - probably at Kent St Weir
2. 1.00pm - 1.30pm - (3 km) Go via Kent St Weir to Queens Park Train Station

Events for your diary (as above)

- 25 September "Bush to Beach" walk. 10-1.30. Register now!
- <http://bushtobeachwalk.blogspot.com/>
- 1st October. Night Walk. 7-9pm Register at melonhillbg@gmail.com or ring Judy 93831501
- 15th October. 25 years on. Free Community event at the Heritage Precinct. 3-5pm. BYO picnic. Original musical vibes.

