



Winter Newsletter 2023

This newsletter has lots of news to share, so is reported in order of events!

Children's Hospice

The development was approved by the WAPC on 27th July subject to numerous conditions. MHBG made representation at the WAPC hearing on the 27th July, delivering a power point to demonstrate to the commissioners, the impacts of the building in such close proximity to the bushland; including native vegetation management outside the boundaries (the Swale and Flyash Hill, as well as the Seaward Corridor). We highlighted the likelihood that snakes will enter the site, and urged them to follow national guidelines for artificial lighting near bushland, and sought amendments to be included, but the recommending officer did not consider our amendments significant enough to be added to the list of conditions. There were several presentations from the Allen Park community, with concerns that still needed to be addressed.

Anyone walking through the rugby club car park to the beach will have seen the barrier fencing around the development envelope that is already in place. It may be presumptive as there is still a way to go before a building permit can be issued. The development cannot proceed until the full suite of conditions are to the satisfaction of the WAPC. **See attached letter.**

A meeting was recently held with the Council administration to seek clarification around the WAPC's approval of the hospice development going forward, and consideration of the areas surrounding the excised Lot 503 (Hospice site) and Lot 504 (the driveway access from Odern Crescent), to ensure that:

- The grassed areas (Lot 501, 502) remain accessible to the public at all times,
- City of Nedlands remains the Management Body of Lots 501 & 502 that classify as Class A "Parks and Recreation" and ensure these areas can only be used for purposes solely decided by the Council.
- Being mindful of the Allen Park Master Plan that is up for review, particularly since the development has been approved and ensuring there won't be any development creep.
- The questions that arose around the reconfiguration of the car park and mass evacuation in the event of a fire need to be answered, as the Traffic Impact Statement did not cover this.
- Raising concerns that liabilities and responsibilities don't become the City's to have to deal with in perpetuity.

Allen Park Cottage

We are very happy to report that Nedlands Council has taken steps to ensure that the Allen Park Cottage will be restored. Councillors were urged to support an allocation of additional funds when the Annual Budget was adopted at the Special Council Meeting, 31st July 2023. *The amendment read as: clause 1 d Capital Expenditure Program as follows:*

1. *increase Allen Park Cottage – Stage Two Improvement of Allen Park Cottage by \$148,538 to be funded from a transfer from the North Street Reserve; and*

The AMENDMENT was PUT and was

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 12/-

This amounts to a sum of \$282 000, which will go a lot further than the proposed \$95 000. These much-needed funds are to be spent to avoid further deterioration of the cottage.

Our sincere thanks go to Councillors and the Nedlands Administration. This action heralds the beginning of a new chapter for this much treasured 110-year-old cottage.

More good news about the corridor between the Boobook Sector and south Sayer Street



Planting in Lot 150 on 10 June

Approximately 700 seedlings were planted this season. We also planted west of the Walkway, adjacent to Lot 139, as well as south of the crest of Melon Hill. The latter proved to be quite a challenge due to the steepness of the slope. Hopefully the reinforced rolls of coir will support the establishing seedlings and help curb erosion on that site.

Aspirations were realised when on the 10th June, volunteers spent a morning planting over 230 seedlings on Lot 150 and across the Boobook Sector. To celebrate this important milestone, a morning tea was held at the point where Sayer Street cuts through the A Class Reserve. Lot 139, on the south side of Sayer Street was also planted with Banksias including *Banksia menziesii* (firewood banksia), *B. prionotes* (candle banksia) and *Hakea prostrata*, and in years to come, should provide an abundance of nectar for honeyeaters and seeds for foraging birds including Black cockatoos that frequent these areas. As the areas are quite exposed, they will need nurturing and watering over the summer months.



Sayer Street morning tea after planting

Remarkably, there were many tuart and marri seedlings germinating this year in the Heritage Precinct and needed to be transplanted promptly if they were to strike. If you're wondering while out walking what some of the colourful tags represent, the marris and tuarts have been staked with bamboo canes tied with orange flagging tape to identify them. There are also over 40 grasstrees spread across Allen Park. They have pink flagging tape. It's imperative that these canes remain in place as the young grass trees seedlings are simply a couple of grass like leaves and could be overlooked and trampled on.



Planting below crest south Melon Hill

A further 1100 seedlings were planted by contractors on the embankment near Odern Crescent, Flyash Hill, Seaward Corridor, Sayer Street and on Melon Hill. We were heartened by the good rainfall through June and July, and most of the seedlings are establishing well. Anticipating a hot and dry spring and summer, the watering roster will begin on a monthly rotation starting in a couple of weeks' time. If you are able to lend a hand, do let us know.

Norn Bidi

Meetings with the Council's Project Officer were fruitful resulting in a proposed route for the Norn Bidi north of the Bridge Club. Residents had the opportunity to respond to the proposed route (via *Your Voice*) and the design details will hopefully reflect suggestions we made about incorporating the mural with the Swanbourne Primary School's colourful mosaic work. We look forward to seeing the final artwork and seeing construction getting underway early next year. Planting along the edges will have to be staged into autumn as soil preparation will be the key to success.

Fungi foray

There were many colourful specimens for the foray on August 3rd, and resulted in a good selection of photos for the collection. Technology has come a long way to helping each one of us to collect data, as our cameras provide location to help us identify trends year in and year out. See adjacent image of Scarlet bracket fungus growing on a lopped tree trunk.



Gardening Australia

Perhaps a few of you saw Josh Byrne around Allen Park a few weeks ago. There's to be a feature on Growing Locals in one of the ABC's *Gardening Australia* episodes over the coming months, as Josh met up with long time Allen Park associate, Robert Powell, who will be remembered for introducing the Yellow admiral butterfly's host plant, Native Pellitory to Allen Park in the late 1990's. Robert resides in England but came over to finish arranging for the next publication of his most useful book "Growing Locals", which is an absolute gem. We look forward to finding out when the book will reach our shelves, and secondly, when the episode will be screened.

COMING UP

Spring Photography Walk 2023 - Allen Park This Saturday!

From 9am-11am, 9th September. Join us for a photography bushwalk through Allen Park.

It's a chance to photograph some of the beautiful wildflowers, birdlife and landscapes within the bushland. We aim to select the best images (with your consent!) for our fundraiser calendar that will be available at the AGM on the 17th November.

Meet outside Mattie Furphy Cottage on Clare Copse in Swanbourne, at 9am. Morning tea will be provided at 10.30am.

Participants are advised to wear closed-in shoes, sunscreen and a hat and bring a water bottle. Limited to 20 people, there are a few places left, so register for the event at melonhillbg@gmail.com or call Judy 0428294876

Bush to Beach Exhibition and Community Celebration - 3 to 5 November 2023

Calling all artists (any medium), photographers, writers, keepers of local lore and history, runners, trail walkers, dog owners, oval goers and local community groups! We are planning an exhibition and family friendly community day to celebrate our very special bush to beach community on the weekend of 3 to 5 November. If you or someone you know would like to be involved, please let Eliza know at eliza.clapin@bigpond.com or on 0402 890 252. This is a casual, family friendly event with an emphasis on inclusiveness and fun so contributions of every kind and at every level are encouraged. More details will follow so keep an eye on social media and the Melon Hill Notice Boards.

Saturday 7th October
Weeding Fumitory

Bush to Beach
Art exhibition 3-5 November

Insect study 11 November
8-9.30pm
Night walk with WA Insect Study Group

17 November
AGM
Ranger Red guest speaker with snakes



**Melon Hill
Bushland Group**
WhatsApp group



Follow us on social media

**BUSH TO BEACH
EXHIBITION AND
CELEBRATION**

3 to 5 NOVEMBER

We are planning a party!

We would love to showcase art and photographs of the area and highlight the work of different community groups.

Save the date - more details to come. Expressions of interest please contact Eliza on elizadapin@bigpond.com or txt 04 02890252

MELONHILL.BUSHLAND

If you'd like to keep up to date with activities please join Whatsapp

Are you a member – if not would you like to join?

Contact us by email melonhillbg@gmail.com, or Secretary Judy jhe74786@bigpond.net.au

see us on the Urban Bushland council website Find us on FaceBook, Instagram

@Melonhill_bushland

Please consider the logo – **Think Global, Act Local**: Join us to

help care for our local patch. You can make a difference!

Written by L Shaw for MHBG

