



Friends of Wireless Hill Newsletter Autumn 2013

The Friends meet on the 2nd Monday of each month at the Capital Radio Room, Wireless Hill Park at 7.00pm.

Weeding/planting activities are at 8.30am on the 2nd and 4th Sunday.

FUTURE ACTIVITIES

Planting Day

Every year, we plant seedlings of species present in the park. Last May we planted more than usual in the garden beds and around the ring road, in preparation for the Wireless Hill Centenary celebrations, which was a huge success. This year we will have a Planting Day on Sunday 26 May.

Please register your interest:

by email kate.creed@optusnet.com.au

or phone 9316 8109.

Wildflower Walk

The annual wildflower walk will be held in September. Details will be announced closer to the date.

Meanwhile, we are always active in the park with weeding and monitoring the flowers and animals.

FLOWERING NOW

Wireless Hill has at least 150 native flowering plants. Despite the recent heat, there are a few plants in flower. Most obvious are *Hemiandra pungens* (Snake bush) a ground cover with purple flowers which can be seen opposite the main car park. Also throughout the park *Corymbia calophylla* (Marri) now has cream flowers which will later become gum nuts. Other flowers which you may see are blue *Lobelia gibbosa* and pink *Thysanotus* (Fringed lily).

OTHER NEWS

We were especially pleased last year to have assistance from local school groups (tree planting) and scouts (weeding). It is great that younger people are learning to care for the environment.

A record of flowering plants has been placed in the Civic Centre Library in the form of photocopies of specimens.

Regular meetings are being held between Friends of Wireless Hill and the Environment team of the City of Melville to discuss work plans. The meetings have been productive and we would like to thank the City's officers for their keen involvement and support.



Hemiandra pungens (Snake bush) Photo by Tanya Babaeff



Corymbia calophylla (Marri) Photo by Margaret Matthews

FIRE MONITORING ON WIRELESS HILL

On 28 February 2011 part of Wireless Hill burnt, leaving blackened soil and several burnt trees. We marked off several small plots in the burnt and adjacent area and have since followed the recovery with photographs and plant monitoring. No trees have died – some, especially eucalypts, put out new shoots from buds on the stem; others, especially banksias, sprouted at ground level.



March 2011



March 2013



March 2011



Dec 2011

Photos this page by Dalton Moffett

In the first year, several flowers were recorded which were not seen in adjacent areas e.g. *Stenopetalum gracile*, *Calandrinia liniflora* and *Tripterococcus brunonis* while others appeared to be stimulated by fire e.g. *Drosera erythrorhyza* and some orchids. One very noticeable effect was the growth of exceptionally tall flower stalks from almost every Balga. Many plants sprouted from seeds or underground structures but did not flower in spring as usual. By September 2012, 18 months after the fire, 33 species were in flower compared with 22 in 2011. It is now difficult to recognise that a fire occurred 2 years ago apart from the burnt trunks of the trees. There was no marked weed invasion except Gladiolus and Veldt Grass (*Ehrharta calycinus*) which occur throughout the park. It will be interesting to see what is in flower next September. **Kate Creed**

We look forward to seeing you in the Wireless Hill park!

Friends of Wireless Hill www.friendsofwirelesshill.org.au

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