



Friends of Wireless Hill Newsletter Winter 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.

WILDFLOWER WALK

The annual Wildflower Walk will be held on Sunday 8 September. We will meet at 9.00am at the main car park and, with help from the Murdoch branch of the Wildflower Society, the Friends of Wireless Hill will identify flowers beside the sealed paths. September is the peak of the wildflower season in WA. Please register your interest by email to kate.creed@optusnet.com.au or by phoning 9316 8109.

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

FLOWERING NOW

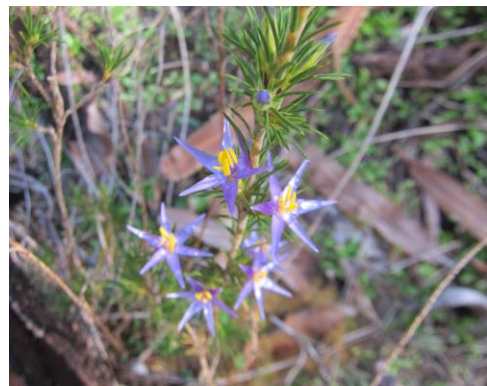
Following the recent rains, buds are developing and the early season flowers are appearing. Several species of small Acacia have been out including *A.willdenowiana* and *A.stenoptera*. The shrub with yellow flowers, *Hibbertia hypericoides*, is widespread; also, scattered throughout the park, is the blue Tinsel Lily (*Calectasia cyanea*). Other flowers that you might see are Semaphore sedge (*Mesomelaena sp*) and *Jacksonia sternbergiana*.

OTHER NEWS

The annual Planting Day on 26 May was a great success. As well as the Friends of Wireless Hill, we had enthusiastic help from local scouts and from several members of the public. We planted 300 seedlings, mostly along the ring road; this was followed by welcome refreshments. The weather remained fine for us and a few showers since then should ensure that the plants have a good start.



Acacia willdenowiana (Grass Wattle)



Calectasia cyanea (Blue Tinsel Lily)



Jacksonia sternbergiana (Stinkwood)
(Photos Margaret Matthews)



Scouts at our planting day (photos M. Matthews)

GERALDTON WAX ON WIRELESS HILL

Geraldton Wax (*Chamelaucium uncinatum*) was planted in Wireless Hill many years ago and since then has grown profusely. It is not native to the park and subsequently started to take over. No one realised that it would become a menace to the natural bushland. Where the plant is appreciated is in home gardens as a colourful shrub, not meant for this park. Some of the bushes grew very large, became woody and little colour was in the flowers. They still multiply each year.

Over 25 years, we have been trying to eradicate these from the park, mainly by pulling them up when small by hand or cutting them. Most of the large ones have been removed but seedlings still come up each year by the hundreds. Also, under these plants nothing else will grow. This is an ongoing job, not hard work but continuous. The winter time is best for pulling them out, as the soil is soft, and the weather is more suitable.

Unless the young seedlings are removed, they will take over again, so it is essential that this will never eventuate. Any volunteers of help would be welcome.

Alison Croft



Geraldton Wax is a wonderful cut flower but it is a weed at Wireless Hill (photos M. Matthews)

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

Friends of Wireless Hill www.friendsofwirelesshill.org.au

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