



Friends of Wireless Hill Newsletter Autumn 2014

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.

WHAT HAPPENS IN SUMMER?

When the weather is hot and dry, there are few flowers to be seen at Wireless Hill. Exceptions are trees including Jarrah (*Eucalyptus marginata*) and Marri (*Corymbosa calophylla*). Their blossoms attract a number of birds that feed on the flowers, such as Brown and Singing Honey-eaters and Wattlebirds. The Little (Western) Wattlebird is less common than the Red Wattlebird and is more gentle in voice and behaviour. Another bird that is seen and heard at this time is the migratory Rainbow Bee-eater which nests in burrows in the sand in summer. Ravens, Magpies, Willie Wagtails and parrots may be seen throughout the year.



A Little (Western) Wattlebird quarrelling with a Red Wattlebird at Wireless Hill
(Photo by Keith Lightbody)

FUTURE ACTIVITIES

The Annual Planting Day this year will be on Sunday 13 April. Seedlings of species present in the park will be put into garden beds, round the ring-road and also beside the path at the eastern end between the Almondbury/McCallum roundabout and Davy St, which was dug up last year by Telstra to lay cables. The Planting Day will be advertised in local Newspapers, Capital Radio and on notice boards. We would love you to join us at 8.30 am in the main car park on Wireless Hill for an hour or so. Please contact me on 9316 8109 or by email on kate.creed@optusnet.com.au if you can help.

OTHER NEWS

The work by the City of Melville in the central area is nearing completion with removal of plaster from outside buildings and insertion of paths. The changes in the centre of the Park may encourage more families to visit and walk in the bush. The Friends are grateful to have received a grant from State Government NRM funds to continue the employment of bushcare workers to help us remove weeds so that native plants thrive.



Rainbow Bee-eaters
(Photo by Keith Lightbody)



Red-Tailed Black Cockatoo feeding on Jarrah
at Wireless Hill



Red-Tailed Black Cockatoo on a Jarrah tree,
note the characteristic bark
(Photos by Keith Lightbody)

JARRAH TREES ON WIRELESS HILL

Over a hundred years ago, Wireless Hill Reserve was used as a Telecommunications Centre. The Park was a natural bushland and had numerous large Jarrah trees (*Eucalyptus marginata*) growing throughout the 90 acre area. In order that telecommunications could be transmitted without interference, with a couple of exceptions, all the standing trees were axed to the ground. We were very fortunate that modern tree-clearing machinery was not then in existence. Only the tree stumps remained.

Over the years, nature has come to the rescue by sprouting growth to over 90% of these stumps. The limbs have grown to such an extent that they now constitute large trees from a single base. There are many instances of these spread-eagled trees all over the park. What may not be known is how many of those massive Jarrah tree stumps did not shoot after being felled.

In recent years the Jarrah trees on Wireless Hill have been infected by Phytophthora Dieback. The Friends of Wireless Hill together with the City of Melville, Alcoa and others have been involved in a program of phosphite injection into the trunks to provide protection for these magnificent trees.

Alison Croft

We look forward to seeing you on Sunday 13 April for the Annual Planting Day,
followed by refreshments

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