



## Friends of Wireless Hill Newsletter Autumn 2015

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

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

### WHAT HAPPENED OVER SUMMER?

Even in the hot summer months, there were some flowers on Wireless Hill. Our two common Eucalypts were particularly impressive this summer. Jarrah (*Eucalyptus marginata*) in November/December and Marri (*Corymbia calophylla*) in January/February were well worth a visit. Trigger plants were flowering throughout summer as were Camphor Myrtle and the pink *Calytrix fraserii*.

In February a Bird Walk was organised by Birdlife Australia. 23 bird species were seen including Red-tailed Black Cockatoo and Rainbow Bee-eater. Most of the birds were high in the trees and difficult to photograph but were singing well in the early morning.

Also in February a visitor to the Park drew our attention to a small dugite (*Pseudonaja affinis*) that had the head of a small Bobtail Lizard (*Tiliqua rugosa*) in its mouth. The lizard moved sluggishly and although we watched it for some time, the snake seemed unable to make further progress.

### SURVEY OF NATIVE PLANTS

The Annual Planting Day this year will be on Sunday 17 May. This is later than last year but the recent rains should make the soil moist to some depth. If you would like to join us please meet at the main car park at 8.30 am. I would be grateful if you contact me first on 9316 8109 or on email [kate.creed@optusnet.com.au](mailto:kate.creed@optusnet.com.au). The Wildflower Walk will be held on September 13th.



Red-tailed Black Cockatoo (Photo by Keith Lightbody)



A dugite attempting a big meal (Photos by Martin Drake)

## WEEDS ON WIRELESS HILL

In the list of flowering plants in the Wireless Hill bushland, 20% are not native to the area. A few of these have come from elsewhere in Australia and may have been planted on purpose in the past. Examples are Geraldton Wax (*Chamalaucium uncinatum*), Gungurru (*Eucalyptus caesia*) and *Acacia microbutrya*. We are now careful to plant only local native species.

The majority of exotic species (weeds) are small herbs and have come from overseas, especially Europe and South Africa. Some were brought in on purpose as garden plants (e.g. *Lachenalia*, *Gazania*, *Freesia*, *Gladiolus*), or for agriculture (many grasses and nitrogen-fixing legumes). Others were carried in unintentionally with cargo including the only exotic orchid (*Disa bracteata* from South Africa) and many others.

The Friends of Wireless Hill spend many hours removing weeds in the bushland. We concentrate on aggressive plants that compete with native species such as Perennial Veldt Grass (*Ehrharta calycina*) which was introduced from S.Africa to stabilise the soil; and Geraldton Wax which has been allowed to spread throughout the bush.

*Gladiolus*, *Gazania* etc. are brightly coloured flowers that draw attention away from some more subtle natives. Various clovers (e.g. *Trifolium*) and yellow daisies (e.g. Flatweed, Capeweed) tend to have leaves or stems that spread over the ground so that emerging shoots of native plants are unable to push upwards. We always remove weeds manually and do not use chemicals as these are non-selective.

Kate Creed



*Lachenalia*, Photo by K. Bettink

Volunteers are always welcome at our meetings and work days

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