



Friends of Wireless Hill Newsletter Autumn 2016

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.

FLOWERS SEEN IN SUMMER

This time of year is not remarkable for native flowers in the Park. After the hot spells in summer and with little rain until the end of March, the bush is looking particularly dry and some shrubs and tree branches will probably not survive. Flowers that were present were *Hemiandra* (Snake bush), 2 *Jacksonia* species (Stink wood) and a pink *Calytrix* (Starflower).

FIRE AT WIRELESS HILL

Unfortunately a fire occurred at Wireless Hill on 16 March. An area about 50m X 100m was burnt at the lower end of the Wild Flower Walk. It was not a hot fire so most trees should survive but the ground was devastated, leaving charred, exposed soil. A fence now prevents people walking into the area and it is probable that new growth will occur from underground structures and the germination of seeds stimulated by smoke.

PLANTING DAY

The Annual Planting Day this year will be held on Sunday 8 May at 8.30am. Seedlings grown from seeds collected in the Park will be put into some degraded areas – not the burnt area. Please join us.



The burnt area (8th April 2016)



First green shoots (photos by Margaret Matthews)



Hemiandra pungens

HONEY-EATERS ON WIRELESS HILL

Honey-eaters occur almost exclusively in Australia but some are also found in New Guinea, New Zealand and several neighbouring islands. In Australia there are about 67 species ranging in size from 10 to 40 cm from tip of tail to the end of the bill.

As the name implies, their main food source is nectar (honey) from blossoms. This is supplemented by insects and fruit for proteins. The nectar is picked up on a brush at the tip of the long tongue. Many have long, often curved bills to reach into the base of tubular flowers.

Although there are many trees that blossom in summer (including Marri and Jarrah) and many native flowers produce a magnificent display in spring, birds including honeyeaters are often difficult to find in Wireless Hill but 6 species of honeyeater occur regularly. These are the noisy and quarrelsome Red Wattlebird and the more exclusive Western (Little) Wattlebird which may be recognised first by its creaky, repetitive voice. This species is often heard alongside the near-by Canning River at Applecross. The Singing and Brown Honeyeaters are usually seen moving among the leaves of trees foraging for insects. Groups of New Holland Honeyeaters are frequent visitors but may be confused with White-cheeked Honeyeaters which are tending to replace the New Holland in the metropolitan area. Rare observations have been a Black Honeyeater and Western Spinebill.

The birds are most easily seen about one hour after sun-rise or as the sun goes down.

Kate Creed



Singing Honeyeater



Brown Honeyeater



White-cheeked Honeyeater

Photos by Keith Lightbody

We look forward to seeing you on Wireless Hill

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