



Friends of Wireless Hill Newsletter Summer 2017

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 Wild Flower Walk in September was enjoyed by a record crowd of 200 people/families. It was a very pleasant sunny day and over 45 species of flowers could be easily seen from the sealed paths. These included seven orchids and extensive Kangaroo Paws (*Anigozanthus manglesii*).



Looking north near the Western boundary of the burnt area April 2016.



The same photopoint looking north near the Western boundary of the burnt area November 2017. Photos Margaret Matthews

It was particularly interesting that it was no longer obvious that there had been a fire in the bush 18 months earlier. Flowers such as Cats Paws (*Anigozanthus humilis*), *Drosera stolonifera* and the

native grass (*Austrostipa tenuifolia*) were present this year but not in the very large numbers following the fire; there were plenty of leaves of the Red Beak Orchid (*Pyrorchis nigricans*) but not a single flower of this smoke-sensitive species. The tall spikes of *Xanthorrhoea preissii* (Balgas) have been flowering profusely this year and attract bees and ants.

GRANTS TO THE FRIENDS OF WIRELESS HILL

The Friends of Wireless Hill have again been successful in our application to the Swan Alcoa Landcare Program for funds to employ bushcare workers to hand weed the area from the Council car park to the western boundary of the Wildflower Walk area. This funding of \$6,656.00 will commence in March 2018.

We have just completed work on a project funded by the State NRM (Natural Resource Management) Program. This funding, for \$19,720.00, began in March 2016 and was completed in September 2017. This allowed more intensive weed control over the whole project area, with a bushcare team on site a half day every week instead of fortnightly. The Friends thank the NRM Program for this support.

ACTIVITIES ON WIRELESS HILL




The City of Melville has been encouraging greater use of Wireless Hill. For many years Capital Radio has operated from there. Last year a children's play area was built and the Museum has been opened for exhibitions (including flower photographs and a history of sewing machines). From 8 October, a Farmers' Market has been held on Sunday mornings – creating parking problems on our Work Days. At the Merge Festival on 18 November, the Friends of Wireless Hill invited visitors on guided walks in the bushland.

Please note that it is illegal to pick native wild flowers in Western Australia

A GUIDE TO THE MORE COMMON SUNDEWS OF WIRELESS HILL

In the course of enjoying the wildflowers this winter and spring, I looked into several *Drosera* species that are easy to find. All three of these insectivorous plants have dewy leaf like structures that can adhere to small insects, which can then be digested. The other food source is light from the sun as the plants also use chlorophyll like other green plants. Morning or evening sunlight strikes the sticky droplets and creates a colourful rainbow effect. Look for the prominent flowers in spring to spot each *Drosera*. Trying to notice them by foliage alone is harder.

<i>Species</i>	<i>Common Name</i>	<i>Habit</i>	<i>Flowering time and colour</i>	<i>Where to see them</i>
<i>Drosera macrantha</i>	Bridal Rainbow Sundew	Climbing to 1m long	July to September white	Visible from the sealed tracks of the Wild Flower Walk parallel to Telefunken Drive which leads towards the Council offices.
<i>Drosera stolonifera</i>	Leafy Sundew	Upright to 20cm	July to September white	Visible from tracks of the Wild Flower Walk.
<i>Drosera menziesii subsp. penicillaris</i>	Pink Rainbow Sundew	Climbing to 1m long	September to October pink	Visible from trails connecting Telefunken drive to Davy Street. Plants are isolated and away from walk trails.

<i>Drosera macrantha</i>	<i>Drosera stolonifera</i>	<i>Drosera menziesii subsp. penicillaris</i>
		

James Ciantar

We look forward to seeing you on Wireless Hill
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