



Friends of Wireless Hill Newsletter August 2020

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

Weeding/planting activities are at 8.30am on the 2nd Saturday & 4th Sunday & 9am every Tuesday.

DJILBA

The Noongar Season 'Djilba' (August – September) is represented by the colour pink as it symbolises growth of wildflowers and plants.

This is the start of the massive flowering explosion that happens in the South West. Beginning with the yellow flowering plants such as the acacias.

Djilba is a transitional time of the year, with some very cold and clear days combining with warmer, rainy and windy days mixing with the occasional sunny day or two.

Traditionally, the main food sources included many of the land-based grazing animals including the yongar (kangaroo), the waitj (emu) and the koomal (possum).

As the days start to warm up, we start to see and hear the first of the newborns with their proud parents out and about providing them with food, guiding them through foraging tasks and protecting their family units from much bigger animals, including people!

The woodland birds are still nest bound, hence the swooping protective behaviour of the koolbardi (magpie), djidi djidi (willy wag tails) and chuck-a-luck (wattle birds).

As the season progresses and the temperatures continue to rise, the flower stalks of the balgas (Grass Trees) emerge in preparation for the coming Kambarang season.

<https://www.ecu.edu.au/centres/kurongkurl-katitjin/cultural-ambassador-program/nyoongar-six-seasons/djilba>

FLOWERING NOW

The spring flowers have started with the first donkey and cowslip orchids as well as greenhood and jug orchids making their appearance.



Cowslip orchid *Caladenia flava*



Salt & Pepper – *Philothea spicata*



Sundew - *Drosera pallida*

Photos by Margaret Matthews

GUIDED WILDFLOWER WALK

The Friends of Wireless Hill and the Murdoch Branch of the Wildflower Society will lead walks at Wireless Hill on **Sunday 6th September**. Walks will start at 9 am or 10 am and take about 45 minutes to an hour. We ask for a gold coin donation. Please book by contacting aruni.jayasekera@gmail.com or Margaret on 0402 105 649/ s3mmatthews@hotmail.com



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Please note that it is illegal to pick native wildflowers in WA

Volunteering Opportunity September 2020

Weather permitting, the Friends of Wireless Hill will survey the macrofauna (mostly the invertebrates such as insects and spiders but also reptiles and amphibians) at Wireless Hill.

We need volunteers for three shifts per day:

Monday 7 th September:	Morning: Digging and establishing pit traps
	Afternoon: Monitoring traps, netting
	Evening: Monitoring traps, monitoring light trap
Tuesday 8 th September	Morning: Monitoring traps, netting
	Afternoon: Monitoring traps, netting
	Evening: Monitoring traps, monitoring light trap
Wednesday 9 th September	Morning: Monitoring traps, netting
	Afternoon: Monitoring traps, netting
	Evening: Monitoring traps, monitoring light trap
Thursday 10 th September	Morning: Disassembling pit traps

David Knowles from Spineless Wonders will undertake the survey with help from the Friends and the local community. Animals are caught and photographed then released.

Training and equipment will be provided. Please contact Margaret Matthews 0402 105 649/
s3mmatthews@hotmail.com if you would like more information or if you would like to be involved.

This will be the first invertebrate survey done in the City of Melville. It is very important for the ongoing health of the plants and animals at Wireless Hill that we have the right pollinators, especially for orchids, and enough insect food for birds, many of which are also pollinators. Insect populations are in decline throughout the world, mostly due to the use of pesticides and insecticides and habitat loss. There are actions we can take if we need to assist insect populations, such as particular plantings and managing light pollution sources.

The money has been provided by the Federal Government Community Environment Program through the Electoral Office of our local member the Hon Ben Morton MP.



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We look forward to seeing you on Wireless Hill

Friends of Wireless Hill www.friendsofwirelesshill.org

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