



Friends of Wireless Hill Newsletter

March 2020

The Friends meet on the 2nd Monday of each month in the Capital Radio Room, Wireless Hill Park at 7.00pm (meetings currently cancelled)
Weeding/planting activities are at 8.30am on the 2nd and 4th Sunday.

BUNURU

Bunuru (February-March) is the hottest season in the Noongar calendar with little to no rain. Hot easterly winds continue with a cooling sea breeze most afternoons if you're close to the coast. Therefore, traditionally this was, and still is, a great time for living and fishing by the coast, rivers and estuaries. Because of this, freshwater foods and seafood made up major parts of the diet during this time of year.

Bunuru is also a time of the white flowers with lots of white flowering gums in full bloom, including Jarrah, Marri and Ghost Gums.

We are about to enter Djeran (April-May). Djeran season at last sees a break in the really hot weather. A key indicator of the change of season is the cool nights.

The winds have also changed, especially in their intensity, with light breezes generally from the south east to south west. Many flying ants can be seen cruising around in the light winds.

Djeran is a time of red flowers especially from the Red Flowering Gum (*Corymbia ficifolia*), as well as the smaller and more petite flowers of the Summer Flame (*Beaufortia aestiva*). As you travel around the Perth area, you may also notice the red 'rust' and seed cones forming on the male and female Sheoaks (*Allocasuarina fraseriana*). Banksias start to display their flowers, ensuring that there are nectar food sources for the many small mammals and birds that rely upon them.

FLOWERING NOW

Late March is a time of very few flowers at Wireless Hill. The white flowering gums have finished and the Banksias have not yet begun. Last week the only flowers were on some of our plantings from last May.



Some of the plantings from May 2019



Calytrix fraseri, Pink Summer Calytrix, some of the only flowers in Wireless Hill at the end of March (photos by M. Matthews)



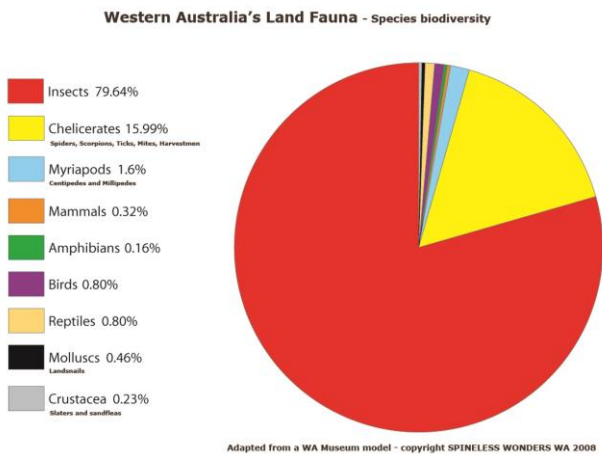
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Please note that it is illegal to pick native wildflowers in WA

INVERTEBRATE SURVEY AT WIRELESS HILL

The Friends of Wireless Hill are very grateful to have received a grant to undertake a survey of the macrofauna (mostly the invertebrates such as insects and spiders but also reptiles and amphibians) at Wireless Hill. Most (97%) of the macrofauna are invertebrates as shown by the pie chart.



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. This will be the first invertebrate survey done in the City of Melville.

The Friends group will engage David Knowles of Spineless Wonders to do the survey with lots of help from the Friends and the local community.

Insect populations are in decline throughout the world, mostly due to the use of pesticides and insecticides and light pollution in urban areas.

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. There are actions we can take if we need to assist insect populations, such as particular plantings and managing light sources.

The survey will be done in late September/early October, depending on the rainfall as insect populations respond to soil moisture and will involve sampling and trapping at three sites in the Park over three days and nights. Animals are caught and photographed then released.

We hope to involve the local schools and residents living around the Park. Most of the work will involve light trapping during the nights, a fun social activity! Hopefully we are again able to enjoy social activities by September/October!



A Blue-banded Bee visiting *Dianella revoluta*
Photos by Bryony Fremlin



A Tau Emerald Dragonfly (*Hemicordulia tau*)



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We look forward to seeing you on Wireless Hill
Friends of Wireless Hill www.friendsofwirelesshill.org
Kate Creed, Convenor ph 9316 8109, kate.creed@optusnet.com.au

Since 1998