



# Friends of Wireless Hill Newsletter

## March 2021

The Friends meet on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of each month in 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.

### BUNURU

Wireless Hill (Yagan Mia) is on Whadjuk Nyoongar land.

The **Nyoongar calendar** divides the year into 6 seasons. The current season is **BUNURU**

English name: **Second summer**

Time: **February- March**

Stage of life cycle: **Season of the adolescence**

Bunuru is the hottest season in the Nyoongar 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.

### FLOWERING NOW



The Marri, *Corymbia calophylla*, produces the Honky nuts featured in May Gibbs' stories of the Gumnut Babies and is loved by the Red-tailed Black Cockatoos. These cockatoos are frequent visitors to the park in Bunuru. They come to feast on the nuts and seeds of the Marri trees which mature at this time. Look for the carpet of Marri nuts and leaves under the trees – a sure sign that these birds are active. You will also hear their loud *karrak* sound echo across the park. (Photo M. Matthews)



Another striking plant that is hard to go past is the female Zamia (*Macrozamia riedlei*). Being much larger than that of its

male counterpart, the huge cones emerge from the centre of the plant with masses of a cotton wool like substance.

As the hot, dry weather continues the seed in the cones change from green to bright red, indicating they are ripening and becoming more attractive to animals, particularly the emu, that will eat the toxic fleshy outer.

[www.bom.gov.au/iwk/calendars/nyoongar.shtml](http://www.bom.gov.au/iwk/calendars/nyoongar.shtml)



### SWAN ALCOA LANDCARE GRANT

The Friends of Wireless Hill are grateful to have received a Swan Alcoa Landcare Program (SALP) grant to continue our weed removal at Wireless Hill. We use these funds to employ professional bushcare workers to manually remove weeds such as South African veldt grass, love grass, freesias, and gladiolis from the best condition bushland at Wireless Hill. These weeds compete with native plants and can be fuel for fires. We also have a continuing State Natural Resource Management (NRM) grant.



natural resource  
management program



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



**Carnaby's Black Cockatoo** and Short-billed Black Cockatoo *Calyptorhynchus latirostris*. Named in honour of zoologist and naturalist Ivan Carnaby (1908–1974). **Threatened Status** “Listed Endangered: Schedule 1 – Western Australian Wildlife Conservation Act”. “Endangered: under *Federal Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act*”. It is uncommon to common in wetter parts of its range, scarce and patchily distributed in driest parts of range. Usually in pairs or small flocks, occasionally large flocks or aggregations up to 5,000 in non-breeding season especially at pine plantations. It has declined in the last 50 years due to habitat loss and destruction, especially large-scale clearing in much of the wheatbelt and Banksia and Tuart woodlands on the Swan Coastal Plain. From:

<http://museum.wa.gov.au/explore/online-exhibitions/cockatoo-care/carnabys-cockatoo>



**Red-tailed Black Cockatoo** *Calyptorhynchus banksii naso*. The south-western population *naso* (referring to its large bill) was named by John Gould in 1837. Known to the Noongar people as ‘Karrak’. “Listed Vulnerable: Schedule 1 – Western Australian Wildlife Conservation Act”. “Vulnerable: under *Federal Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act*”. It was formerly common but is now rare to uncommon and patchily distributed over a range which has become markedly reduced. Usually seen in pairs or small flocks, seldom large flocks (up to 200). It has declined due to destruction of forests and woodlands, also competition for nest hollows with native and exotic species and the impact of fire. There are three subspecies of Red-tailed Black Cockatoo in Western Australia. Only the south-western

population *naso* is listed as Vulnerable. From: <http://museum.wa.gov.au/explore/online-exhibitions/cockatoo-care/forest-red-tailed-black-cockatoo>

**Rainbow Bee-eater** *Merops ornatus*. These birds arrive at Wireless Hill around November each year, where they build nests and breed. In February and March, they can be seen flying around in the early morning and evening, catching insects for food. Sometime in Bunuru they will gather in the trees and fly north to their winter habitat.



These rainbow bee-eaters were photographed by Gary Meredith in the Great Sandy Desert, more than a thousand kilometres north of their traditional summer habitat.



(Right) Rainbow Bee-eater at Wireless Hill, (B. Bowra, Jan 2018)

We look forward to seeing you on Wireless Hill  
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