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## Friends of Trigg Bushland Update October 2020

### Upcoming Calendar Dates

31 October - **Guided Walk** – 8-10am, location TBA

1 November - **Bush Restoration** – 8-10am, location TBA

### Continuing to be COVID-19 safe

We resumed our usual activities during winter, whilst practising good personal hygiene and observing physical distancing. It is important that we stay active in the bushland, but please be cautious and stay away from upcoming activities if you feel unwell



### New wildlife nest boxes in Trigg Bushland

In early September, Year 4 students at St Mary's School spent a day learning about the habitat and breeding requirements of native birds, and built seven new nest boxes to provide supplementary habitat in Trigg Bushland Reserve. The workshop, run by environmental education and bird expert Simon Cherriman, started with an inspirational presentation on the importance of preserving remnant bushland for wildlife. Students then built and painted nest boxes that were made entirely from recycled materials. Each was designed to suit the needs of birds in the area, including endangered black cockatoos, boobook owls, parrots and pardalotes. The nest boxes included features to deter unwanted species, such as tin roofs that get hot and make it difficult for feral bees to build honeycomb.

After lunch, Simon used his impressive tree climbing skills to install the nest boxes on trees along the walking track on the northern boundary of the school. Students now have a monitoring log and will record their observations of species that move into the nest boxes. The project was made possible by a grant from the City of Stirling, and the ongoing dedication of staff at St Mary's School.

*Photo: Simon Cherriman installed a cockatoo box in Trigg Bushland Reserve (photo credit St Mary's School)*

### Joint Annual General Meeting

The joint AGM with Friends of Star Swamp was held on 26 July. Joe Tonga from Natsync Environmental provided a fascinating presentation on microbats, of which there are three species in the City of Stirling. Joe discussed how bats use echolocation to catch insects, and how one bat can consume up to 1,000 mosquitoes and midges a night! Joe discussed the design features of bat nest boxes, which include using stainless steel mesh as a landing pad to avoid corrosion from bat urine. A bat box building workshop will be held with St Mary's in late October.

The following Office Bearers and Committee Members were elected:

Mitchell Polain - Chairperson  
Steve Wisken - Treasurer  
Melanie Davies - Secretary  
Nina McLaren, Ian Johnson and Trish Berridge - Committee Members

Thank you to Nina McLaren, outgoing Secretary, and Ian Johnson, outgoing Treasurer, for their long service in these roles.



### Nature talk and walk for Hale and St Mary's students

In mid-September, St Mary's had a visit from the boys at Hale School for an afternoon of learning about the wealth of nature in Trigg Bushland Reserve. A group of 50 students from Year 1 attended a talk by Friends of Trigg Bushland, and learnt about the threatened tuart woodlands surrounding the school, and how removing weeds helps to maintain species diversity.

Students learnt about how each plant or animal fills a specific role and contributes to ecosystem health, such as the digging and turning of soil by quendas, and 'buzz pollination' of wildflowers by native bees. Students then tested their newly acquired weed identification skills on the guided walk. At the end of the walk, a tawny frogmouth was spotted in a tuart tree on the school grounds, which capped off a wonderful afternoon!

*Photo credit St Mary's School*

### Surfing WA Proposed Headquarters

The Friends of Trigg Bushland completed a submission on the proposed redevelopment of the Surfing WA Headquarters at Trigg Beach, during the City of Stirling community consultation period. FoTB supports the important community programs that Surfing WA provide, and understands that the current headquarters do not meet the demands or future needs of the organisation. However, FoTB considers the proposed location on grassed parkland and a small portion of bushland, and expansion of the footprint to 900 m<sup>2</sup>, is not an optimal solution. The submission recommends that the new headquarters utilise existing areas of hard landscaping where possible, and avoid the removal of any vegetation in Trigg Bushland Reserve. The full submission can be viewed on our website [here](#).

The City of Stirling received over 200 public submissions and considered the item at Community and Resources Committee meeting on Tuesday, 6 October. The proposal will go to the Ordinary Council meeting on Tuesday, 13 October for a final decision. Refer to the City's [website](#) for further information.

### Annual membership renewal 2020/21

Thank you to everyone who has renewed their membership, your support is appreciated. If you are yet to do so, please fill out our online membership form [here](#).



### Local Government field training day in Trigg Bushland Reserve

In early October, the Friends of Trigg Bushland shared information on our activities in the reserve during a field training day for Local Government, organised by the WA Local Government Association (WALGA). The training aimed to share the practical, on-ground knowledge needed by Local Government staff involved in the conservation of natural areas.

The training commenced at Bennion Beach, where attendees learnt about erosion control and revegetation on steep limestone cliffs and dunes. The next site was South Trigg Beach, where attendees viewed a staged restoration project on foredunes that involved the removal of marram grass, and direct re-planting of Spinifex cuttings. Next was a discussion on the use of Bush Forever Reference Sites to support natural area surveys, with working examples provided for the Banksia and Tuart open forest vegetation communities. A visit to the Rottnest Island Pine Threatened Ecological Community focused on conservation and protection actions, including the establishment of an effective buffer.

The day finished with a guided walk through tuart woodland, which focused on the key native and weed species present in the community. The day was a great example of collaboration between a number of organisation, with WALGA, the City of Stirling, Perth NRM, Stirling Natural Environment Coastcare, the Wildflower Society WA, and Friends of Trigg Bushland all leading the training and sharing their expertise.

*Photo: Dave Pike discusses the distinguishing features of native grasses (photo credit WALGA)*

### Communications expertise wanted!

Do you have experience with website design and updates, or e-newsletter production? We would love to hear from you!

Our Committee is looking for support with communications to our members and the wider community.

There are many different ways to support a community group, and providing skills in your area of expertise is a great way to help out. Please contact Melanie Davies, Secretary, at [triggbushland@gmail.com](mailto:triggbushland@gmail.com), or 0427655588 if you are interested in learning more. Thank you!