

GOODE NEWS

July 2020



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Isn't it wonderful to be tentatively coming out of COVID-19 hibernation, even if it is still winter? We had our Annual General Meeting on 17 March, just before restrictions on gatherings were applied. Twenty brave souls attended and managed to distance themselves fairly well in Kelly's spacious garage.

The committee was re-elected unopposed, as follows:

President: Catherine Macdonald

Secretary: Jenni Leonard

Treasurer: Elly Beckeringh

Committee Members: Steve Dale, Marguerite Flynn, Chris Hopper, Clare Mitchell, John Myers.

John Myers has since had to retire for personal reasons. We will miss his thoughtful and immaculately researched inputs and hope that we will continue to see his cheerful face at FBA events.

We have not been able to do a lot in terms of FBA activities over the past few months but things are starting to look up, with weeding having recommenced in June and July and two events planned for August—the wrap-up of the community assessment of plastic on 1 August and Goode Evening IV on 21 August. These events are described beautifully by some of our active FBA members in this newsletter.

Lot 660

This matter is still moving slowly through the State Administrative Tribunal process. We are not sure whether the expedited approval process for developments that has recently been adopted by the WA Government will affect the chances of the project being approved but we are trying to find out.

Frenchman Bay Heritage Trail

Richard Vogwill and his merry crew are moving forward with the proposed Frenchman Bay Heritage Trail. They are currently in liaison with Menang Noongar elders and others involved in the Restoring Menang Noongar Boodja Place Names project in the hope that the FBHT can be included.

Enjoy reading the rest of the *Goode News*, skilfully edited by Jen Leonard, with contributions from many FBA members.

See you at Goode Evening IV if not before.

Catherine Macdonald
0434 148 463

IN THIS ISSUE

Message from the President

Caring for our bushland

ANZAC dawn service

Thank you to John Myers

Community assessment of plastic on GB

What's app – another way to stay connected

Our street library

Vandalism of the historical wreck 'Elvie'

Bushfire management update

Foxes in Goode Beach

Goode Evening IV

CARING FOR OUR BUSHLAND

By Linda Matthews

Unfortunately, weeding bees have been few and far between this year. March was our first weeding bee for the year when we met in La Perouse Court to weed the verges. Polygala was starting to establish a foothold in the area and pelargonium was removed in large swathes. Twelve volunteers turned up for the session and Ian Herford deserves our heartfelt thanks for taking on a huge melaleuca nesophila that was hiding in plain sight.

Then COVID-19 struck and we all hunkered down.

Once restrictions lifted, we arranged for another weeding bee to take place on 13 June. This time we met at the very top of Karrakatta Road and ventured into the Forest Reserve where Sydney Golden Wattle (SGW) was our target. Sixteen hardy weeders did battle with the weeds despite the weather looking very inclement. SGW was found as were several infestations of asparagus fern which were dug out with great enthusiasm.

Of course, our sessions are about more than just caring for our environment, they are a social gathering too. It was lovely to see so many faces after our period of isolation.



Photos: Robin Budden

The plan is to continue with our weeding bees which will be held on the second Saturday of every month. Keep an eye out on the noticeboard and the FBA Facebook page

for details. If you are out walking in our lovely bushland and happen to see weeds, please let us know and we will schedule the area for a future weeding bee.

ANZAC DAWN SERVICE

By Chris Hopper

This year, for the first time since the end of World War II, ANZAC commemorations were cancelled due to COVID-19. However, some Goode Beach residents chose to stand in quiet contemplation at the end of their driveways or on their balconies on 25 April. At dawn, two red flares lit up over Mistaken Island and candles flickered on balconies and those who have lost their lives in the service of others were remembered.



Photo: Steve Hopper

THANK YOU TO JOHN MYERS

John Myers has retired from the FBA Committee after many years as a dedicated and passionate member of the team. We would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to John for his tireless work and for gently educating us on the geology of our beautiful surroundings.



Photo: Sue Roberts

COMMUNITY ASSESSMENT OF PLASTIC ON GOODE BEACH

By Chris Hopper and Harriet Paterson

The FBA teamed up with the Albany campus of the University of Western Australia in a citizen science project, funded by a State NRM program, to survey and monitor annual changes in the attributes and the abundance of plastic debris on Goode Beach.

Involvement in the year-long project has given FBA volunteers a clearer understanding of the negative impacts of this insidious product and the enthusiasm of volunteers for beach clean-up activities has significantly improved the amenity of the area and created a better habitat for the local wildlife. Volunteers removed 20,077 pieces of plastic rubbish from Goode Beach while clocking up a whopping group total of 784 km of beachcombing.

The project has strengthened the desire of members to keep the beach free of plastic debris by being involved in ongoing stewardship activities through targeted management strategies identified in the project.

A presentation on our project

Dr Harriet Paterson will present a detailed synopsis of the findings of the project:

When: 12.00 pm Saturday 1 August

Where: 23 La Perouse Court

Lunch is provided

RSVP by 25 July for catering purposes to Chris on 0498 663 266 or cghopper@gmail.com

Did you know?

The new Western Australian Museum, which is due to open in November 2020, has included a kilogram of the plastic fragments removed from Goode Beach in a display in their *Origins Gallery*. The plastic debris will be part of a timeline of the world that begins with pre-solar stardust grains and finishes with micro plastics. 'Our' plastics will be used as a marker in time to highlight the impact we have had on the planet in such a relatively small amount of time.



Photomontage compiled by Harriet Paterson
Photos: FBA members

WHATSAPP – ANOTHER WAY TO STAY CONNECTED TO YOUR COMMUNITY

The FBA has established a WhatsApp group, called FBA Goode Beach. WhatsApp is a free text and voice messaging app that allows for messages and calls on both desktop and mobile devices. Members have already been using this platform as a community bulletin board to share information, ask questions, send photos and clips or just keep in touch.

If you would like to join, email your mobile phone number to frenchmanbayassociationinc@gmail.com and we will add you to the group.

The FBA Goode Beach WhatsApp has possibilities as an ancillary emergency alert system during bushfire season.

OUR STREET LIBRARY

By Chris Hopper

We are almost there! The much-anticipated FBA–Goode Beach Community Street Library is coming soon.

Frank Leonard has done a masterful job of supplying and constructing the cabinet and it won't be long before it is installed near the school bus stop and FBA noticeboard in La Perouse Rd.

Take a book – Leave a book – Share a book
from the Street Library ... soon.

Indigenous artwork on our library

The final touch before installation will be Goode Beach themed artwork created by Noongar artists Lynette Knapp and Michael Cuming, as shown in the photos opposite.

What is a Street Library?

A quote from Street Library Australia [streetlibrary.org.au]:

Street Libraries are a beautiful home for books, planted in your front yard. They are accessible from the street, and are an invitation to share the joys of reading with your neighbours.

Street Libraries are a window into the mind of a community; books come and go; no-one needs to check them in or out. People can simply reach in and take what interests them; when they are done, they can return them to the Street Library network, or pass them on to friends.

If anyone has a book or two that they think others would enjoy, they can just pop it into any Street Library they happen to be walking past.

They are a symbol of trust and hope – a tiny vestibule of literary happiness.



Photo: Jen Leonard

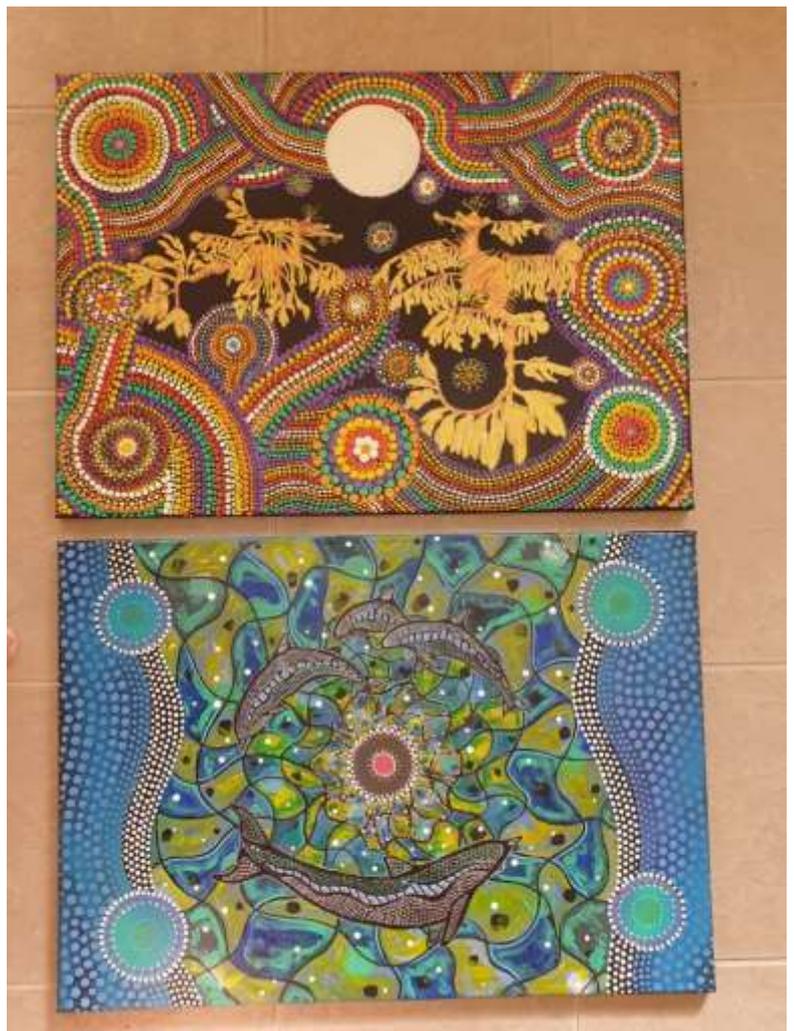


Photo: Steve Hopper

VANDALISM OF THE HISTORICAL WRECK ON THE LIGHTER 'ELVIE'

By Richard Vogwill

The wreck of the Elvie is located towards the northern end of Whalers (aka Frenchys) Beach. It is generally visible during all tide levels as (at least to my eye) a 'skeleton of very old, blackened, wooden ribs', protruding from the sand – best seen during low tide.

The Elvie wreck and its history have been studied and described many times. It was partially excavated in the mid-1990s as part of a marine archaeology study and reports on this study and other historical studies about the Elvie are available. The history of the Elvie is summarised on the FBA website.

The boat was a lighter used to haul various goods around King George Sound in the very early 1900s. Anchored off Whalers Beach, it broke moorings during a severe storm and was wrecked on the beach in the early 1920s. It is more than 100 years old.

On Saturday night 6 June 2020, the highest timber (rib?) protruding from the wreck was cut down with a chainsaw(?) and used as fuel in an illegal fire (with associated party garbage) at the northern end of the beach. Tyre tracks were also evident on the beach.

Two pictures taken by Ian Herford show the before and after scenario. The third is a close up of the 'stump' taken by Alana Ashboth.

This type of vandalism of an historical wreck is mindless. The Elvie is a valuable historical marine relic that needs to be protected and is an important beach observation point on our proposed heritage trail.

This incident has been reported to the City by numerous Goode Beach residents. I received a reply to my email from the City in answer to numerous questions about protecting the wreck, but it is currently unclear which level of government and department (local, state or federal) is responsible for the protection/monitoring of historical marine relics on the beach. It seems that the City feels it is not their responsibility.

The problem here is how do we protect historical artefacts from vandalism in a beach environment?

Some points/questions I raised with the City:

- How many Rangers will be patrolling Whalers Beach on a Saturday night or on any night?
- While we do not expect Rangers to be patrolling this beach every day, it should be recognised that historical wrecks on this beach need better protection.
- Should we install warning signs or 'historical relic' signs near the wreck?
- Should we contact the media and get an article in the local paper?
- Can we put a sign next to the Department of Transport sign at the boat launch, advising of the presence of historical wrecks on the beach?
- Can we build some sort of barrier around the wreck?
- How much value/importance do we give to historical artefacts in this area? (an important question with no answer given).

Because the City considers that it is not responsible for historical wrecks on the beach, these questions/points were largely irrelevant to them, but they have referred the matter to their Heritage Officer.

Work should continue to determine who (which government and department) is responsible for protecting such wrecks and ensure that they know of our situation and can offer suggestions/help to remedy it.

Is anyone interested in continuing to pursue this matter? If so, let me know and I can forward relevant correspondence.

Richard Vogwill
hydroearth@bigpond.com
 0419 884 448

Before



Photo: Ian Herford

After



Photo: Ian Herford

Stump



Photo: Alana Ashboth

BUSHFIRE MANAGEMENT UPDATE

By Steve Dale

Obviously, we have all been dealing the impact of COVID-19 on all our lives, which has changed many aspects of what we were used to prior to the pandemic. One of these aspects is the development of a fire plan for Goode Beach.

Since the last *Goode News* in February, there has been a frustrating period of trying to engage with people who are tasked with developing bushfire resilience in the Great Southern. Obviously, our interest lies with bushfire management of Goode Beach, and we had indicated our willingness to work with this project and have input into strategy development for our community.

We have had several discussions with Melanie Haymont, the Bushfire Risk Planning Coordinator for our region. Each time we were hopeful of having an opportunity to meet and discuss the plan for our community. There has been the development of a bushfire resilience report for Goode Beach and the next step is to have public consultation on the options that this report has highlighted. This meeting has been proposed several times since February, with the various restrictions stymieing each attempt to do so.

Finally, we have a date! Thursday 20 August at 5.30 pm, with the probable venue being the South Coast fire shed on Austin Road. Both the venue and time is to be confirmed, with the City of Albany coordinating this. The FBA will send out notification once this is confirmed.

The meeting will be to give a brief overview of the project, run through the draft report and the associated treatment schedule, so the community can ask questions and have some input into the final mitigation plan, bearing in mind all treatments will be subject to the appropriate clearances and funding.

Consultants were also tasked with developing a 5 km fire run map of our area, which will be presented at the public consultation.

We hope that all interested residents are able to contribute to this important issue and please bring all your thoughts and ideas to enhance our safety and planning.

FOXES IN GOODE BEACH

By Georgina Steytler

In late April we heard a fox calling from the Goode Beach area. I was concerned by this as I know we have many native marsupials and other animals in the area. I contacted the Department of Biodiversity and Conservation to ask about the current status of 1080 baiting in the Torndirrup National Park.

I was advised that some years ago the Parks and Wildlife Service (PWS) took the decision to stop 1080 baiting within the Torndirrup National Park due to the increased risk of poisoning pets from adjoining properties. This situation is unlikely to change due to the high risk assessment it has been given.

In light of this, the only other option to reduce feral predators (I have seen a couple of cats after dark too, usually along Austin Road on the reserve side) is to use traps. Though we would not be permitted to trap in the national park, we could trap within our own properties.

Apparently, the Albany District (of PWS?) is conducting trapping for feral cats and foxes in a number of locations where very high conservation values are in need of this work, but Torndirrup National Park is not currently on this list.

I am keen to start an organised trapping program among other interested residents. I am going to contact the City of Albany to find out if it is possible to borrow traps. I have also been advised that the Torbay Catchment Group conduct fox control and could be contacted in regard to borrowing traps.

Traps would need to be checked daily and any caught animals would, of course, need to be handed over to the City rangers for appropriate disposal (and if it's a domestic cat, for instance, they can deal with the owner for its return).

As I am new to the group, and the area, I would very much appreciate your comments or suggestions for the feasibility of this idea, as well as expressions of interest to participate. My email is wildandendangered@gmail.com.

Meanwhile, I am a bird photographer so if you see a strange-looking woman lying on the ground with a big lens it's just me! In August and September, the Albany Bottlebrushes along the Austin Road reserve are in constant bloom and it's a great opportunity to get some beautiful bird on flower shots. Carnaby's Black-Cockatoos, Red-capped parrots, Western Spinebills and Tawny-crowned Honeyeaters are often present. One of my favourites is on the next page.



Photo: Georgina Steytler

GOODE EVENING IV – FRIDAY 21 AUGUST

Goode Evening IV will be held on Friday 21 August at 6.30 pm. Hosted once again at the lovely home of Tony and Eve Kinlay, the evening will feature a presentation by Malcolm Traill and Mike Lefroy called 'A Colonial Rivalry – Perth vs Albany over the years'.

We are looking forward to another Goode Evening.

If you've missed the flyer with all the info including RSVP and payment details, contact us at frenchmanbayinc@gmail.com.

