

# GOODE NEWS

July 2021



## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Hello to all,

This is my first foray on *Goode News* since becoming FBA President after Catherine Macdonald, who's a hard act to follow. Thank you for all your time and effort over the past three years Catherine.

It has been a rapid transition for me, with email and phone calls increasing and the change of mindset that accompanies the role.

Fortunately, we have a competent team of people on the FBA committee who provide skill and support and are great people to be with!

### What's been happening?

Following the March edition, the FBA members have been beavering away on some ongoing projects, e.g. Bushfire Ready Group, weeding group, beach plastics, heritage trail and aquaculture zoning. These projects will be expanded upon in more detail in this edition.

### Development matters

There continues to be no change to the status of Lot 660, which is heartening. Obviously, we will continue to monitor this matter and respond as needed. The South Coast Aquaculture Development Zone (SCADZ), which includes Mistaken Island (MI), is a current matter of concern. The proposed zone increase south of MI creates issues that have been raised formally by the FBA with the Minister for Fisheries. These concerns relate to the impact on cetaceans (whales and dolphins), beach pollution from equipment and marine debris, visual impact of the current infrastructure on the environment of Goode Beach and threats to MI as a nature reserve. The Minister is due to make a decision shortly on SCADZ, which we hope will be favourable to our request not to approve any further expansion to the existing zone. We will monitor this matter closely. Particular thanks to Ian Herford for all the time and effort he provided to put our concerns to the Minister.

Lastly, we have just had notification that the picnic area and boat ramp at Frenchman Bay have been temporarily closed due to severe erosion and the potential danger to the public. The City do have funds to restore the damage, though work will not be carried out until after the bad weather has abated.

### Restoring Menang Noongar Place Names

As first reported to FBA members in January, the dual naming of places in the Albany area was proposed to Council on 22 June and was unanimously endorsed. After an extensive consultation process, 66 places were given dual names, including two places in our area. Lake Vancouver (Naaranyirrup) and Vancouver Springs (Kep Mardjit) will be acknowledged in this process and will consolidate the shared history and cultural heritage of our region.

We do live in a wonderful part of the world!

*Steve Dale*

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## VALE PHIL ROBERTS

By Marguerite Flynn and Steve Hopper

Goode Beach residents and members of the FBA will deeply miss Phil Roberts.

Phil Roberts was a much-loved resident of the Goode Beach community and a long-time passionate advocate for caring for the environment. As a highly valued committee member of the Frenchman Bay Association for many years and an Albany Shire Councillor, Phil worked tirelessly to preserve Lake Vancouver and the pristine beach. Phil was a shining light, showing by example a reasoned and fair-minded approach both to individuals and to community concerns.

Veterinarians Sue and Phil together ran the highly regarded Dog Rock Veterinary clinic for many years. In leisure time, fellow dog owners have enjoyed countless chats on the beach with them as Ruby was taken for her daily constitutional.

A keen and skilled clarinet player, Phil regularly played jazz at the Dome in Albany with saxophonist, Pleun Hitzert and entertained community members at many FBA events over the years, most recently at January's Goode Arvo with Charlie Pierce and in the past with Herman Beckeringh.

Many residents will recall seeing Phil cycling, snorkelling and kayaking and will cherish memories of his warm and friendly conversation, joyous laughter and kind and generous spirit.

Phil's passion for animal life was reflected in many ways. He assiduously photographed colourful nudibranchs in the waters of Goode Beach. Perhaps less well-known is that in 2014 Phil and Sue participated in Earthwatch's Soutpansberg project focussed on leopard conservation in the north of South Africa, led by Russell Hill. This trip inspired Phil and Sue in 2015 to purchase for conservation the first 1400 ha of this important mountain range. Then in February 2018, they transferred the property to the Endangered Wildlife Trust. The land was named Medike Nature Reserve. It spans the Sand River gorge, and has 58 butterfly species, 14 scorpion species, 16 amphibian species, 61 reptile species, 58 mammal species, 228 bird species and 236 tree species. It contains one of the largest leopard populations in South Africa outside government conservation reserves.

In this way Phil and Sue have left an important international conservation legacy. Nigel Winsor, Earthwatch's Europe Ambassador, was advised of Phil's passing and wrote: 'the work of Earthwatch could never be more relevant and urgent. So your words today make our hearts sing and we remain indebted to both Russell Hill and Phil and Sue Roberts.'

More information on the Soutpansberg is at <https://endangeredwildlifetrust.files.wordpress.com/2019/01/soutpansberg-brochure-2018-final.pdf>.

Our thoughts and wishes are with Sue. We all miss Phil dearly.



Photos: Jodie Moyle

## BUSHFIRE READY GROUP UPDATE

By Robin Budden

Things have been a bit quieter in the three months since our last report. Wet weather coinciding with the lifting of fire bans meant the risk from out-of-control burn offs was significantly lower than it might have been. It may surprise you to know that over the last five years May is second only to October as the month with the most reported fire incidents. I'm sure there are many with memories of May 2018 when fires were widespread across the Great Southern and came uncomfortably close to Goode Beach.

The wet weather unfortunately led to the cancellation of a major DFES/CoA training exercise planned for the end of May. Simulating the hours leading up to the arrival of a fire front, the activity would have provided realistic and operational training to the volunteer fire fighters where they assess whether a property is defensible on its own or by owner, defensible with fire fighter assistance, or not defensible at all. The exercise has been rescheduled and will now be held on Sunday 3 October.

Another part of the May exercise was to be a demonstration of techniques for the controlled use of fire to reduce fuel loads. Hopefully we'll be able to do

this in October. In the meantime, if you are planning to do some burning off over winter and spring, check out the DFES BurnSmart Guide for some useful tips.

[https://dfes.wa.gov.au/Documents/bcoe/BurnSmart\\_Guide\\_2021.pdf](https://dfes.wa.gov.au/Documents/bcoe/BurnSmart_Guide_2021.pdf)

One thing we have been able to do is to replace the Fire Danger Rating sign on the road into Goode Beach, so it now matches with the current state-wide classification. Take a minute to (re)familiarise yourself with the different levels and think about what you will do when the next fire season comes around.

<https://www.dfes.wa.gov.au/bushfire/prepare/>

It might seem a long way off, but time does fly, and the bushfire season will be on us all before we know it.

With next fire season in mind, we could always do with more help. If you are interested in becoming a street coordinator or learning more about the Bushfire Ready Group, please contact Robin Budden on 0417 986 574.

In the meantime, stay safe.



Photo: Robin Budden

## WEEDING IN OUR BUSHLAND

By Linda Matthews

Our weeding warriors have been very busy turning out each month for a chance to ‘whack a weed’ and enjoy a lovely morning tea with like-minded friends.

In March we visited the rocky area south of La Perouse Road and opposite the track to the bird hide. It has been three years since we visited this site and it showed, with large thickets of *Polygala* removed. We will keep a closer eye on this area as the rocks create their own little ecosystem that we wish to protect. In April we returned to the council reserve on the corner of Narvik Street and Karrakatta Road. The usual suspects of Sydney Golden Wattle and Victorian Tea Tree (VTT) were found and removed as well as some substantial patches of asparagus fern and ivy. It was good to see that the seedlings we planted two years ago have hung on.

In May and June we met at the carpark at Frenchman Bay and proceeded to dig out substantial areas infested with VTT. We were to meet at this site again in July, crossing

over Frenchman Bay Road and going into the gullies to the east that run down to the beach. Unfortunately, this had to be cancelled due to stormy weather. VTT has been spotted in the gullies, as the seed washes down with the rain and germinates to establish a new territory. When we reschedule the event, we will also be checking for weeds in the bush either side of the road leading to the Whaling Station. The ground is very rough, quite steep in parts, and will be quite hard going.

Many thanks to Peter Stewart and others from the City of Albany parks and gardens team who come to assist us each month. I especially wish to thank our volunteers who come out to help and also to those who bring along tasty treats to enjoy with our morning tea.

If you wish for more information about joining our group or spot a weedy area in the bush that needs our attention, please contact Linda on 0401 348 845.



Photos: Robin Budden



Photo: Linda Matthews

## UNLAWFUL CLEARING OF BUSHLAND

By Linda Matthews

As a community we value our natural environment, so it is very disappointing to observe that some unauthorised pruning of bushland along La Perouse Road has taken place. The City of Albany has placed a sign to indicate they are aware of this issue and to discourage this behaviour.

## GOODE EVENING V – GOODE IN NAME, GOODE IN NATURE

By Chris Hopper

A *Goode Evening* is on again and this is your invitation to come along and share a few hours with friends in the Kinlays' lovely warm home. It has been a bit too chilly for long chats on the beach lately so please come along. Ugg boots and slippers are most welcome.

Lucky for us, Malcolm Traill is back in town and he will be with us to talk about a topic that is very close to home, Frenchman Bay.

The theme for the evening is 'Goode in Name, Goode in Nature'.

The presentation will be followed by a facilitated Q&A session with a panel of local identities.

### **When**

6:30 pm on Friday 27 August.

### **Where**

Eve and Tony Kinlay's home at 10 La Perouse Road.

### **RSVP**

By 20 August to [cghopper@gmail.com](mailto:cghopper@gmail.com)

### **What to bring**

Your own drinks, a plate of savoury food to share and a few coins for a raffle.

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

By Jen Leonard

Thanks to everyone who attended the Annual General Meeting in March. If you would like a copy of the minutes, please send your request to [frenchmanbayassociationinc@gmail.com](mailto:frenchmanbayassociationinc@gmail.com).