

GOODE NEWS

March 2021



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Who would have thought that three years could pass so quickly? But pass they have and my three-year tenure as FBA president is drawing to a close. A new president will be elected at the Annual General Meeting on **Wednesday 24 March at 7 pm** in the Kelly's undercroft at 6 St Georges Terrace. I hope to see many of you there. If you'd like to join in with the fun of being on the committee (and it is fun!) please get your nomination forms to Jen Leonard or me by the end of Friday 19 March.

In this issue

The FBA has continued with its range of successful social, cultural and environmental activities since the beginning of the year. Articles in this newsletter will update you on the Goode Arvo event at Discovery Bay, weeding progress, the Heritage Trail project and the great strides made in the establishment of the Goode Beach Bushfire Ready Group. There is also a history of some of the local shipwrecks and the heartwarming story of the community's cooperation in the successful search for Skipper Leonard. FBA committee members have been instrumental in all of these activities but so have many other FBA members, as there is a wide range of our neighbours who are prepared to pitch in and make things happen. It's a wonderful community.

Development matters

There appears to have been no change in the situation of the resort proposal for Lot 660. The proponent has yet to lodge an application with the State Development Assessment Unit. We continue to monitor this and will be ready to counter any such attempt. Breaking news today is that the City wants to permanently close the La Perouse Court beach access stairs as they have deemed them dangerous and too difficult to repair. See the notice toward the end of this newsletter. We have requested a meeting with them and will keep you informed.

Drosera paleacea survey results

The State NRM Community Stewardship Grant project to assess the populations and distribution of *Drosera paleacea* or Albany Sundew plants has been completed. Consultant botanist Libby Sandiford finalised her work in late December, concluding that the 'species appears to be a short-range endemic to the Torndirrup area'. Libby's reports have been submitted to the government and

work is underway to have a conservation assessment done by the DBCA. All those community members who participated in the surveys should feel proud of their contribution to protecting this rare species.

Dog handling etiquette

I'm going to end on a matter of dog handling etiquette. Many of us who live at Goode Beach have mild-mannered and well-behaved dogs. Nonetheless, some people and dogs become highly anxious when encountering another dog. In order to keep our neighbourhood calm and happy, please do your best to keep your dog clear of anyone who signals they feel distressed by your dog approaching them, even if you are walking on a designated dog beach. Even if you have a 'perfect' dog, the small effort involved in putting your dog on a leash for a few metres, or holding them out of the way until the others have passed, could go a long way to preserving harmony.

Looking forward to seeing you at the AGM next week.

Catherine Macdonald
0434 148 463

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THE GOODE ARVO 2021

By Marguerite Flynn

A wonderful group of more than 40 happy locals enjoyed Goode Arvo 2021! Our gathering this year on Sunday 24 January was held at the Wildflower Garden in Discovery Bay where participants enjoyed the splendid views, the tasty buffet lunch and cool, relaxing music. The roaring wind from earlier in the day settled right down and allowed us to delight in the surroundings and the good company. New friends were made, and old acquaintances renewed as all enjoyed a drink or two and grazed on a good range of delicious food from the hot and cold platters prepared by Reeves of Albany.

The talented and indomitable musical maestros, Charlie Pierce (on keyboard) and Phil Roberts (on clarinet),

entertained us with a huge array of delightful music and were kind enough to continue performing from beginning to end of the afternoon with no more than a short break.

Many hands certainly made light work – especially when the tablecloths initially needed anchoring with gaffer tape. A huge thanks to those who organised the event, and to those who assisted in setting up the afternoon – including carting chairs, picking up food, setting tables. A splendid time was had by all.



Photos: Robin Budden

OUR BUSHFIRE READY GROUP

By Robin Budden

The Bush Fire Ready Group (BFRG) has had a busy start to the year. The Street Coordinators have been out and about, having fire-ready chats with residents, getting to know who intends to leave in the event of a fire and who intends to stay and defend their properties. Most have said that they will leave but it is worrying that less than half have indicated that they have a bushfire survival plan. We strongly encourage you to follow the advice of DFES and make a plan.

You can download an app for your smart phone, visit the website (www.mybushfireplan.wa.gov.au) or complete the Be Safe & Leave Early Plan your street coordinator

has left with you. If you intend to stay, DFES has published a Bushfire Preparation Toolkit, again available on the DFES website or from your street coordinator. As we have said before, while the BFRG plays a key role in getting our community bushfire ready, each resident is responsible for their own plan of action.

The BFRG has also set up a phone-tree system to send out messages, reminders and alerts.

If you have not met with or heard from your street coordinator (and want to), please contact Robin Budden on 0417 986 574.



Photos: Robin Budden

A number of community concerns have been brought to the attention of the BFRG with number one on the list being the operation of the McBride Road emergency access road. The BFRG, through the agency of the FBA will lobby the CoA, our local council representatives and DFES to resolve the uncertainty surrounding the current unsatisfactory situation.

The BFRG held our first community event on 6 March – a property bushfire preparedness walkthrough and BBQ. Forty-six people signed in with some attending all three properties, others visiting one or two and many questions put to the CoA and DFES representatives. The McBride Road gate, what can be done with neighbours, council reserves and road verges featured heavily. Other questions and comments were wide-ranging, with the list including fence-line clearing permits, the risk posed by interior window treatments, BAL assessors, fire-vehicle accessibility, flame height, breaking the fire-

ladder, bushfire-friendly garden plants and the resilience of the assassin spider.

A big thankyou to everyone involved in the organisation: before, during and after and, in particular, to our three hosts – Kris, Bill and Gabe – without whom the day couldn't have happened.

The great progress made in the short period since our first meeting in October is a testament to the willingness of the Goode Beach community to support each other and to get involved. We have achieved a great deal but there is much still to do, and 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.

In the meantime, stay bushfire safe.

WEEDING IN OUR BUSHLAND

By Linda Matthews

After our Christmas Weeding Party in December, we took a two-month break. The weeds did not.

Our first weeding bee for the year took us to the dunes area adjacent to La Perouse Court. We visited this site in late 2020 and noted there were still more weeds to be removed. The ground was quite steep and rough but 12 hearty souls turned out for the challenge and we dug out a lot of Polygala.

Polygala is more noticeable as a weed than it was in the past. This is possibly due to three years of diligent work to remove Sydney Golden Wattle and Victorian Tea Tree from the area, so they are not seen as much. It is a credit to our volunteers and Peter Stewart from the City of Albany that we have managed to reduce outbreaks of these dreadful weeds. We will continue to go over old ground, being alert to the potential for these plants to again establish a foothold.

Our weeding bees always include a break for morning tea with many of our volunteers bringing delicious cakes, biscuits and slices. The culinary skills in Goode Beach are of a very high standard and a big thank you to all. We also have a short lesson on the environment each time, courtesy of Peter, and learn much about our area.

The signposts advertising the location of each month's weeding bee go up about a week before the date and the FBA Facebook page is updated around the same time and usually includes a few photos of grinning and grubby weeding warriors. All are welcome so please join us for a lovely morning preserving our bushland, meeting friendly neighbours, and a tasty morning tea.

Please let us know if you happen to see any weeds when you 'wander out yonder' through our beautiful bush. We can schedule a working bee for the area and help keep our community weed free. For any information or to report a weed infestation please call Linda on 0401 348 845.



Photo: Robin Budden

THE RUNNYMEDE WRECK

By Bill Deacon

The wreck of the *Runnymede* was visible again in December and January and this inspired me to do some research.

Information in this article has been obtained from the WA Museum web site and compared with information in the book, *Maritime Albany Remembered*.

Runnymede was built in 1849 in Hobart, mainly out of Tasmanian Blue Gum. This timber was used extensively in ship building in 19th-century Tasmania, as it was readily obtainable, available in long lengths and durable.

The ship's dimensions were: overall length 103'6", beam 23', depth 15' 6" and 284 gross tons.

Her rig was as a barque, with three masts: two forward masts square rigged and an aft mast (mizzen), fore and aft rigged. She also had a bowsprit.

Runnymede was a whaler and she was in Frenchman Bay on 14 December 1881 to obtain water. She was caught in our famous easterly gales, and eventually came ashore on 19 December 1881 after breaking her anchor cables.

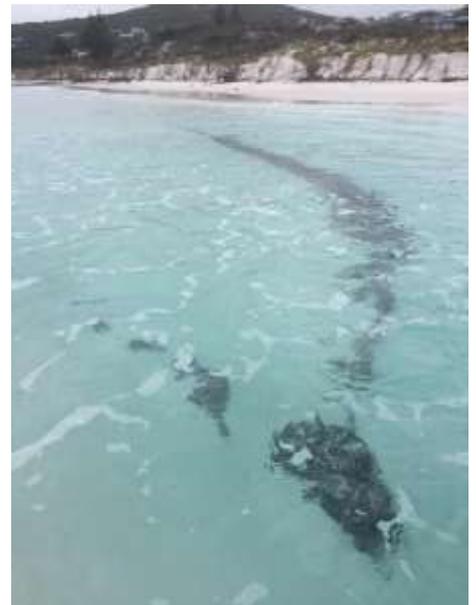
The cargo – barrels of whale oil and many working items from the wreck – were salvaged by the crew for the owners, and eventually shipped back to Hobart.

An Albany businessman, William Jenkins Gillam, bought the wreck to refurbish and use as a coal hulk in Albany. At this time, Albany was a sizeable coal bunkering port for steam ships.

The records are unclear, but repairs to the wreck to refloat her were not successful, or too expensive, and she was burnt where she lay to salvage the metal bolts and other fittings.

Today we see the bottom of the vessel when the sand washes away.

There is another wreck close to the north of the *Runnymede*, another whaler *Fanny Nicholson*. She was blown ashore on 21 November 1872 by another easterly gale.



Photos: Ben Dellar (left), Bill Deacon (right)

REPORTING MAJOR BEACH DEBRIS

If you find something on the beach that doesn't belong and is too big for you to move, please report it to the City of Albany Rangers:

Email: ranger@albany.wa.gov.au

Call: 6820 3999

Attach a photo and an approximate location to make it easier for them to respond

HERITAGE TRAIL PROGRESS UPDATE

By Richard Vogwill

General progress and recent activities

Progress on the trail project continues to advance. Our most recent focus has been on:

- Continued meetings and interaction with the Naming Project Team
- Contact, meetings, and correspondence with the Chairperson of the Albany Heritage Reference Group Aboriginal Corporation (AHRGAC)
- Meetings with a second environmental consultant to obtain additional quotations for environmental assessment work associated with the completion of the Development Application (DA)
- Completion and submission of a grant application to the Heritage Council of WA (HCWA).

Menang Noongar – interaction, naming and support

The City advised us that we need Aboriginal support for the trail before they will accept/approve the DA.

To date, we have contacted the Southwest Aboriginal Land and Sea Council, the Southern Aboriginal Corporation, and most recently the AHRGAC. We have had two meetings with the Chairperson of AHRGAC and these have yielded the best results for us, as AHRGAC seems a very progressive group, eager to help us. We have received a letter of support from AHRGAC, and we have been invited to present our trail project to the AHRGAC Elders at their next committee meeting in late March to hopefully get their final support. This presentation is currently being prepared.

As stated previously, we hope to find a Menang Noongar name for our trail project area and to discover the history of the Menang Noongar people of the area so that we can include their heritage/stories in the trail signage.

The City of Albany Restoring Menang Noongar Names Project has recently published their dual-naming results in a list of Menang Noongar names for various places/features in the Great Southern. In our trail area, several features have been named, for example *Kep Mardjit* (Water Rainbow Serpent = Vancouver Spring) and *Mammang Koort* (whale heart = King George Sound). However, a Menang Noongar name for our trail project area has not yet been chosen by the Elders and we are hoping this will occur at the AHRGAC Committee Meeting later this month.

Grant applications

We continue to search for possible grant monies to finance the DA for the trail. Currently there are not many relevant sources available.

We recently submitted a grant application to the Heritage Council of WA (HCWA) for \$20,000 (the maximum available from them). The HCWA requires two quotations for any contractors used for this work. To complete this application, we have met with a second environmental consultant and received a quotation from them. We feel that our chances of being successful with our HCWA grant application are only 50:50, because the largest expenditure in our budget is for environmental work, not heritage work. This is because H+H Architects will do the heritage work but at a very low price, which includes a significant pro bono discount.

Grant agencies usually expect in kind (volunteer) work from the applicant. Our application to the HCWA includes an attachment which outlines the names, qualifications and estimated charge out rates for an FBA professional work team for the DA. The required ratio of consultants cost to in kind costs varies, depending on grant source. There will be a significant amount of FBA 'labour' required during the DA work. Initial estimated FBA professional labour 'costs' are close to \$20K. This is basically unpaid FBA labour, so we will be looking for volunteers if and when the time comes.

THE SOUTH COAST AQUACULTURE DEVELOPMENT ZONE PROPOSAL

By Catherine Macdonald

Another WA Government proposal that we have been monitoring is the South Coast Aquaculture Development Zone. The Department of Primary Industry and Regional Development is working with Andrew Forrest's Harvest Road company to expand the amount of bivalve (oysters and mussels) farming and processing that takes place in the Albany area. Some FBA members visited the shellfish hatchery located behind Discovery Bay and have had meetings with DPIRD officials. The hatchery seems like an environmentally benign set up but we have yet to receive sufficient information about the farming operations, especially the large expansion planned south of Mistaken Island and therefore directly facing Goode Beach (see the figure below). We believe that an expansion of mussel farming is intended for the area south of Mistaken Island but this has not yet been made entirely clear. We have requested a tour of farming facilities so that we can understand exactly what is planned. Anyone interested in knowing more about this, please let me know.



Proposed aquaculture areas near Mistaken Island, March 2021, courtesy DPIRD

CLOSURE OF STAIRS – GOODE BEACH ACCESS

The following notification was received from the City of Albany today in relation to the beach access at Goode Beach:

There has been some ongoing erosion issues along Goode Beach, which has unfortunately made some of the beach access areas and stairs unsafe for use. In response to this the City's plan is to keep the access and stairs open at the main carpark of Goode Beach, as they are safe at this time, although the beach access stairs off La Perouse Court will be permanently removed, leaving a look out in place. A sign will be erected to inform users of this. This is scheduled to happen as soon as possible due to the risk.

The bollards at the end of the parking area are falling into the beach and will be re-located, with some other remediation works undertaken as required. The boat trailer that has now been exposed will also be removed.

The City will commence planning next financial year with regards to how the beach access is managed into the future as the beach dynamics continue to change. This will be done in consultation with the Frenchmans Bay Association, other key stakeholders and the users of this area.

FINDING SKIPPER

By Jen Leonard

In January, while Frank and I were in ‘offline bliss’ in Cape Arid National Park, our much-loved dog, Skipper, went missing for two days when he was spooked by a thunder storm. Judging by the number of people who went out of their way to look for him, I’m sure most of you know the story.

To say that we were incredibly touched by the outpouring of generosity among the community is an understatement. Almost everyone we met in the days following our return shared their story of their contribution to the search effort.

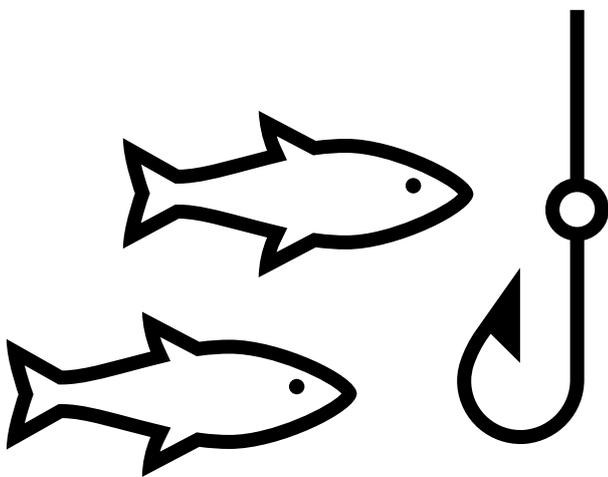
Catherine stepped in as communications officer. Jodie, Daniel, Phil, Sue and others were out on bikes, people were walking the beach, hiking the bush tracks, searching under houses. I’m told that Mila was despatched to Bald Head. Others provided moral support to Jo (our house/dog sitter). News of Skipper’s disappearance was shared on social media and signs were put up all over town.

A big thanks to Judy and Jo who literally put their lives on hold to find him and to Georgia for being in the right spot at the right time and went to his rescue.

The Goode Beach community is truly amazing. Thank you!



Photo: Alex Kotsoglo



Fish Van at Goode Beach
 In Goode Beach on 19 March and Good Friday 9 April from 9.00 am to 11.30 am.
 The fish van will then continue to come to Goode Beach every second Friday for the foreseeable future.

Aussie Seafood 2U
 Home Deliveries Available
 Janis Sell 0497 486 081
 Find us on