

# Friends of Samphire Cove Meeting 1

17/02/2013

## Attending

Bruce & Janet Jackson, Jeannette & Barry Small, Jeanie Phillips, Rebecca Cassells, Wendy Jackson, Bel Matthews, Clive and Lesley Petrie, John White, Astrid Gwynne, Robert Wroth, Nicole Godfrey

## Apologies

Willem Meyerink, Linda Thorpe, Thelma Crook, Allison Dixon, Harry Kirby

Five main problems with the reserve were identified during the course of our first friends meeting:

1. **Antisocial Behaviour**
2. **Access**
3. **Weeds**
4. **Rubbish**
5. **Low Profile of Reserve**

A number of suggestions have been raised to address these issues which are listed below in detail:

## Antisocial Behaviour

The question was asked if City of Mandurah (CoM) has any kind of security patrol that we might ask if Samphire Cove be included in. Rebecca said she's not sure if CoM has a security patrol but that the Rangers have portable cameras that they install in different places in order to monitor things like rubbish dumping or vandalism and that we might ask for Samphire Cove to be considered for inclusion. Rebecca also gave a quick talk on the 'Eyes on the Street' program which allows citizens to report suspicious behaviour to the Police in order to build up a pattern of activity which is more likely to result in investigation rather than one-off reports. **Action** Rebecca to enquire if the Rangers would consider including the reserve as part of the camera monitoring program or CoM security patrol if one exists. Rebecca to forward Eyes on the Street info.

Barry mentioned that he thought the amount of rubbish and graffiti had decreased over the last few months following an increased effort to visit the reserve regularly, repaint the shelters and clean up rubbish. Barry also asked that the backing board on the second bird hide be removed to improve visibility for people approaching the hide of its potentially dodgy contents. **Action** Nicole.

Bel wondered if it would be possible to lock the pedestrian gate so only people with legitimate reasons for using it could access by getting a key from DEC. Nicole answered that this was unlikely as people who wished access would simply cut the lock off or make another hole in the fence. Harry Kirby has offered to unlock the gate in the morning and lock it in the evening however DEC is reluctant to do this for the reasons mentioned above and that legitimate users would then become excluded.

## Access

Barry mentioned that more parking bays outside the reserve would be good so people have better places to leave their cars than on the verge. **Action** Rebecca to inquire if the City might consider altering the parking.

Barry would also like for access through to the first bird hide to be wheelchair friendly. **Action** Nicole to enquire if funds exist for this and other works and investigate other options if not.

Barry suggested a couple of seats for strategic places within the reserve and also a shade sail for the amphitheatre. Nicole mentioned that DEC avoids installing infrastructure in nature reserves due to the cost of maintaining and difficulties with vandalism among other things.

## Weeds

Weed control was identified as being important and Nicole said that one of the things DEC would arrange was to weed map the reserve to help in determining a plan of attack for weed control.

The group was keen to arrange planting for this year, although Nicole and Bec both said that their organisations usually prefer to wait for three years of weed treatment before planting.

Clive recommended arranging the planting of some of the larger tree species in the first year as the blocks next door have been put up for sale. This is significant in that complaints are likely to come in from new owners if they see us planting on a site they thought would remain clear as when they purchased it.

Robert suggested putting in some screening plants for the bird hides also as people using them are too exposed when entering when upsets the birds.

Bel suggested registering for the million trees project and getting schools involved in the revegetation of the reserve.

**Action** Nicole to arrange weed mapping and to find out if a budget exists for weed control and revegetation and to investigate other possibilities if not.

## Rubbish

Rubbish pickup has been occurring fairly regularly over the last 6 months or so and the reserve is looking somewhat tidier for it. In order to continue this and further our aims of discouraging antisocial behaviour, a decision was made for there to be a regular rubbish pickup meeting once a month. A conflict of available days altered this to twice a month; the first and third weeks. The first two dates being:

- Tuesday the 5<sup>th</sup> of March at 8:30am
- Wednesday the 20<sup>th</sup> of March at 3pm

Rubbish bags, gloves and pickers will be provided by DEC and rubbish bags will be left just inside the gate for collection. Bring along smokoh and maybe some binoculars for a bit of spotting as Robert is available to attend for the Tuesday, and some socialising afterward.

## **Low Profile of Reserve**

Barry mentioned that people have had difficulty in finding the reserve as it's not well signed – he asked that a large reserve sign be hung on the fence and also that CoM arrange a sign on the Leisure Way signpost pointing to the nature reserve. **Action** Nicole to arrange reserve sign, Rebecca to see if a directional sign can be installed.

The inclusion of school groups through the Million Trees Project and the Nightstalk, the installation of bird and bat boxes were all raised as possible ways to make progress with the restoration of the reserve and to improve its image within the community as well as encouraging people to appreciate its natural values.

Robert offered to conduct bird watching tours at intervals perhaps when he was doing his regular survey visits.

The use of nature walks was mentioned and Jeanie suggested contacting some of the local walking groups to come as a club event.

Notification of events in the local paper was also recommended.

Rebecca suggested seeing if the Friends of Samphire Cove meeting times and notes about guided nature walks can be included on the Samphire Cove website. Nicole said she wasn't sure if this would be possible as it was set up by the original developer but that it is a good idea, though once underway somebody would need to undertake to update it regularly. **Action** Nicole to investigate options for updating website.

## **Group Contact**

Lastly, the need for a Group Contact was raised by Nicole.

This person simply acts as a link or 'point of contact' between DEC and the Friends. More than one individual can share this role. In fact it is recommended that a proxy is nominated should the coordinator be unavailable.

Skills and experience required:

- Good inter-personal and social skills
- Communication skills; confidence sending and receiving emails
- Enthusiasm!
- (No technical skills required)

Roles and responsibilities:

- Act as a point of contact between DEC and the Friends Group members, and;
- Listing and reporting any group ideas or issues regarding the reserve to DEC
- Act as the contact for expressions of interest from people wanting to join the group
- Ensure new members feel welcome and supported

## **Next Meeting**

30<sup>th</sup> April 2013??