



# Newsletter

Friends of Stirling Linear Park Inc.

Spring 2010

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

**When:** Tuesday 26 October 2010, 6.30 pm

**Where:** Woorabinda Environment Centre

**Speaker:** Councillor Ron Nelson, Chair, Stirling Linear Park Advisory Committee

All welcome. Nibbles, tea and coffee provided. Barbecue facilities will be available after the meeting (please bring your own meat, salad and drinks).

## Community Grant

FSLP recently received a State Natural Resources Program Community Grant of \$5,000 for 'Watsonia Control in Stirling Linear Park'. This follows receipt of a grant of the same amount for similar work in 2009. The grant will be again be supplemented by an amount from the Friends of Stirling Linear Park Public Fund, this year \$500. It will be used to employ specialist contractors to continue work on the large watsonia infestation in the area of good bush between Woorabinda Lake and the railway line. The contractors will start with follow-up work on watsonia regrowth in areas worked on in previous years and then move into new areas.

As noted at about this time last year, FSLP volunteers have made good progress in working in from the edges of this area of watsonia in the last four years but do not have the resources to eradicate it. The grant-funded work will complement work on other large areas of watsonia in Woorabinda undertaken by contractors supervised by Mark Fagan of the Central Hills Green Web. The grant will also enable FSLP working bees to target other smaller areas of watsonia in Woorabinda.

What's inside:	◇ Council Grant	p 2
	◇ SLP Advisory Committee	p 2
	◇ Revegetation	p 2
	◇ Working Bee Report & 2010 program	p 3
	◇ Display	p 4
	◇ Recent Fauna Sightings	p 4

## Council Grant

Early this year Council allocated \$5,000 through the Central Hills Green Web to fund work on weeds in SLP. It was used for contractors to remove blackberries in high profile areas near the Woorabinda Lake, complementing FSLP's work over the last few years on blackberry regrowth in good bush areas between the lake and the railway line.

This funding was most welcome and followed

representations from FSLP to Council highlighting the need for additional Council resources for weed control in SLP and noting that blackberries were one of the weeds that Council had put more resources into controlling in the past. Our thanks to Steve Brooks, AHC Natural Resources of Officer for his efforts in arranging for this funding.

---

## SLP Advisory Committee

The second Council-appointed Stirling Linear Park Advisory Committee began meeting in late 2009 and continues to hold monthly meetings. The Committee is chaired by Councillor Ron Nelson and its other members are Councillor John Kemp, Simon Bradley, Mark Fagan, Sarah Fenton, John Kallin, Adam Miller and Isabel Paton.

The Advisory Committee is working on a wider range of issues than the first Advisory Committee. Sub-committees have been formed to consider revegetation and fire management and members have sought information on other subjects including grant funding opportunities.

FSLP accepted an invitation to address the Advisory Committee in June and were represented by Philip Hicks and Brian Donaghy. Philip outlined FSLP's role and ongoing activities in the Park and future infrastructure priorities. Brian, who is a member of the Aldgate CFS, discussed fire management related activities that he has undertaken in the Park.

Philip and Brian then raised some questions and points for discussion on subjects including revegetation in Stirling Park and the correct route of the Hender Trail, which was approved by Council late in 2009 as a dog off-leash trail.

---

## Revegetation

Over the last autumn and winter, FSLP members have planted about 300 seedlings in the existing revegetation areas in Madurta. The planting consisted of:

- *Acacia melanoxylon* (Blackwood) to fill gaps in areas along the creek line and in other wetter areas
- Smaller shrub size plants suitable for backfilling in dryer areas around the *Eucalyptus dalrympleana* (Mountain Gum or Candlebark) natural regrowth area where they will not stop the Candlebarks self seeding but will help to protect this area
- *E. cosmophylla* (Cup Gum) on the margins of the good bush area where mature specimens of this species already exist.

It was originally planned to use some of these seedlings to backfill existing plantings in the revegetation areas of Stirling Park. As a result of uncertainty due to Council's decision to halt

revegetation in Stirling Park we reallocated many of the seedlings earmarked for that area to Madurta. We still have stocks of other seedlings for planting in Stirling Park.

We have referred this matter to the SLP Advisory Committee and have sought approval to plant blackwoods along the creek line this year to replace stands of *Acacia retinodes* (Swamp Wattle) which are short lived and are progressively dying off. We have also sought approval for further plantings next year in existing revegetation areas.

The seedlings were grown by Trees for Life member Anne Hicks using a combination of seeds collected by Anne and seeds supplied by Trees for Life of which FSLP is also a member. Following Council's decision on revegetation in Stirling Park, we did not take delivery of seedlings from another long-term grower who had to reallocate them elsewhere.

<b>WORKING BEES, remainder of 2010</b>		
<b>Date</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Meeting Place</b>
September 19	Woorabinda	Woorabinda Drive
October 17	Madurta	Madurta Avenue
November 21	Stirling Park	Branch Road
December 19	Woorabinda	Woorabinda Drive
<b>Time: 9.00 am – 11 am</b>		

## Working Bee Report

Our June and July working bees in Stirling Park and Woorabinda were washed out. While some rain during working bees is not surprising in winter, it is unusual for consecutive working bees to be called off. A few regulars have been able to compensate for this by doing weeding after the weather has fined up.

The earlier working bees this year continued our overall long-term strategy of working outwards from areas of good bush and have been well attended. So far this year we have concentrated on:

- Woorabinda – at our March and April working bees we cut and swabbed blackberries in the good bush area between the lake and the railway line as a follow-up to work in previous years and were also able to extent our work further south. We have made good progress on the medium and smaller blackberry patches in this area and also removed other weeds, such as *Acacia longifolia*, but will need to continue follow-up work.

At our recent August working bee we cleared the sparse woody weeds and watsonia etc. from the lovely area of good bush to the south east of the lake. Though there were not many weeds in this area it is important to keep them from multiplying and spoiling this vital area. We all enjoyed working in this nice environment.

- Madurta – at our May working bee we worked on broom and other weeds in the south western end. Jane Shoettgen has also been doing a lot of valuable work on watsonia and other weeds in the revegetation area.

- Stirling Park – at our February working bee we cut and swabbed gorse in areas on the western slopes which had surprisingly regrown after being cut and swabbed by last year's Green Corps team.
- Hender – Bob James has continued his marathon solo weeding effort. As a result of the progress he has made in clearing the good bush of weeds we have continued our policy of concentrating on the other reserves.

As in the last few years, the emphasis in the period up to and including October will be on watsonia during its active growth period, in recognition of the threat to good bush posed by the spread of this weed. In Woorabinda we will continue to concentrate on smaller, emerging areas of watsonia while leaving the very large areas to be worked on as described in the front page item on the community grant. In Madurta we will continue follow-up work on removing watsonia regrowth in the good bush area at the south western end of Madurta after work done by Green Web contractors and previous FSLP follow-up work.

Following this, in November we will continue our work on gorse regrowth and other weeds on the western slope of Stirling Park while in December we will return to Woorabinda to work on a cross section of weeds in the good bush areas.

Working Bee reminder notices are sent out by email to the 'regulars'. If you are considering joining us on the third Sunday of the month at 9:00am, send your email to Bob James at [bobjames@chariot.net.au](mailto:bobjames@chariot.net.au) and he will include you on the list for working bee reminder notices.

## Display

On 18 April this year Friends of Stirling Linear Park members had a stall at the Autumn Garden Festival in Druids Avenue, Stirling. Marilyn Forward put a lot of work into preparing a wonderful display of photographs, plants and promotional material. Other members helped to

erect the Friends awning to protect the display and provided information to interested passers-by. The display attracted considerable attention from the public and a number of people expressed interest in becoming Friends.

## Recent fauna sightings in Stirling Linear Park

Water birds seem to have been relatively scarce on Woorabinda Lake for at least the last six to nine months. The sum of the waterbirds seen during a recent walk around the lake was two Pacific Black Ducks, one feral duck and a few Eurasian Coots and Dusky Moorhens. The four resident Purple Swamphens were also in the area around the lake.

In July four Little Pied Cormorants were seen

on the dead tree in the northern end of the Woorabinda Lake and one Hardhead was sighted over a period of a few weeks.

A pleasing long term observation from the monthly Bushcheck bird survey in Stirling Linear Park is the variety of birds in the Stirling Park revegetation area.

*Any observations would be welcome for inclusion in future editions.*

---

### Friends of Stirling Linear Park Committee 2009-10

Kathy Bowman	8370 9177
Merilyn Browne	8339 6839
Brian Donaghy	8339 2033
Marilyn Forward	8339 3162
Phillip Hicks	8339 3156
Bob James	8339 1903
Ian Perrin	8339 3262
David Ragless	8339 1038
Lorri Ragless	8339 1038
Alistair McHenry (Advisor)	8339 5114
Russell Seaman (Advisor)	8398 0626

Web address: <http://esc.net.au/~slp/>

### Affiliations

The Friends of Stirling Linear Park Inc. is a member of Friends of Parks Inc. We are also a registered Landcare Group and a member of both Greening Australia and Trees for Life.

**Disclaimer:** Contributors' views and opinions expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily the views of the editor, the committee or the general membership of the Friends of Stirling Linear Park Inc.

**Contributors to this issue** include Philip Hicks and Bob James.

## Friends of Stirling Linear Park Membership application/renewal

I/we would like to join/renew membership of the Friends of Stirling Linear Park Inc. (strike out words not applicable)

\$.....membership fee is enclosed.

\$.....donation is included. (Donations of \$2.00 or more are tax-deductible. A separate receipt will be issued.)

Membership fee for both individuals and family:
1 year.....\$10.00
5 years.....\$40.00

Name.....

Address.....

.....Phone.....

Email address for sending Newsletter.....

Please return to: Kathy Bowman, Friends of Stirling Linear Park Inc., 2 Bogaduck Road, Aldgate 5154