

# Bush Medicine

## Garden Celebration

Saturday Sept 8th from 1pm ~ 4pm

CJSC ArtsHouse Cnr Reid St & Kathleen St Bassendean

Plantings, Tastings, Exhibition & Talks.

Lyall Tillbrook of Maalingup Gallery presents bush foods. Vivienne & Mort Hansen guide through planting the garden with plants significant to the Whadjuk Noongar people

Open exhibition of CJ campus students artwork inspired by botanicals and working with Whadjuk Noongar Artist in Residence Sharyn Egan.

RSVP to [cjscartshouse@gmail.com](mailto:cjscartshouse@gmail.com)



Notes from Verna  
Suburb Manager  
Ashfield  
Ph: 0432 563 800

I recently spoke with police sergeant Mark Stoneman at Kiara Police Station regarding crime in Ashfield. Sergeant Stoneman said the main offence in Ashfield is stealing from motor vehicles. There has now been an increase in this type of offence which is opportunistic as often people leave valuables on display in their cars and forget to lock them at shopping centres, at parks or even in their own driveways. Always lock your car when leaving it.

Sergeant Stoneman informed me that Kiara Police Station has recently had an increase in staff, which helps to provide a more localised policing service where attendance to incidents and investigations will be performed by Kiara Police Staff and not centralised policing units. The police focus will be on working more closely with the community in reducing crimes of burglary.

**AshfieldCAN AGM**  
**September 17th 2018**

*Come along and be part of making things happen*



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SHOP OPEN FROM  
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3A, Colstoun Road, Ashfield, WA – 6054. PH : 08 9279 7424

LUNCH / DINNER BUFFET AVAILABLE FROM  
11.00 AM TO 8.00 PM



BREAKFAST AVAILABLE FROM 6.00 AM



SEPTEMBER 2018

Helping to build a better community

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**Ashfield**<sup>TM</sup>

[www.ashfieldcan.info](http://www.ashfieldcan.info)

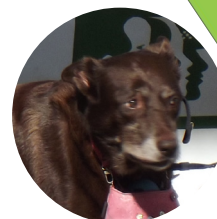
**16th September**  
**Sunday Morning**

**You're invited to come down and be part of the fun.**

Bring the family or just yourself and enjoy a walk around the Ashfield Flats

**The Dog's Breakfast**  
**FREE EVENT is on again!**  
**16th September 2018**  
**Sandy Beach Reserve**  
**8am - 10.30am**

Competitions, walk trails and lots of fun for all the family.  
Breakfast for a gold coin donation  
for more information email  
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**Local People**  
**Local Sponsors**

**Free Event**



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## FROG STALK

On the 28th of July AshfieldCAN held the latest of our Citizen Science and Nature Appreciation events down at the Ashfield Flats. The Frog Stalk was also the first event we have held in collaboration with the new Eden Hill Community Network.



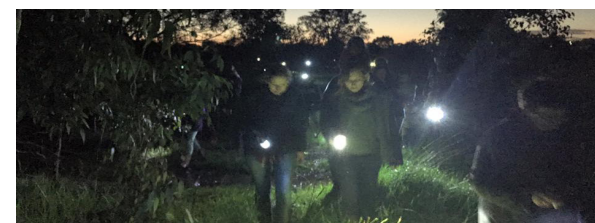
We started off the evening with a sausage sizzle and some introductory words from our President Lucy Bromell and the President of the new Eden Hill Community Network Cristina Carey.

We had a great turnout with around 40 adults and children attending. There was lots of excitement as we all headed off into the evening with our torches and headlamps to look and listen for frogs. Our first stop was the permanent water area to the west of the walking track heading down to Sandy Beach. Here we could hear a cacophony of frogs including the Motorbike Frog, Slender Tree Frog, Western Banjo Frog, and one of the local froglets (possibly Glauert's Froglet).

We then headed along the river path towards the board walk checking out the huge floodgums along the way and keeping our eyes peeled for any other night time creatures but they were all hiding very well.

As we got closer to the drains we started to hear frogs again and as we walked up the path along the drain we had two sightings – one of a Motorbike Frog sitting on a fence post and a Glauert's Froglet on the path. The group then split up with a smaller group tackling the wet and very soggy track along the back of the Flats closest to Hardy Rd and the other group returning to Sandy Beach Reserve. The highlight of the back track was the incredible number of Banjo Frogs calling with their distinctive "bonk".

It was a great evening and wonderful to share with so many people the amazing place that is the Ashfield Flats.



## AshfieldCAN AGM September 17th 2018

Monday 7pm, Ashfield Sports Club  
Cnr Haig St and Colstoun Rd

Helping to build our local community  
**ALL WELCOME**

## Ospreys Battle it out with a Raven



Picture by G. Kiely

## BIRDS OF ASHFIELD FLATS

This is a list of birds seen on the Ashfield Flats compiled by local residents Geoff and Jan Addison.

Grebe	Laughing turtle dove
Hobby	Corella
Grebe	Galah
Spotless crane	Red tailed black cockatoo
Little pied cormorant	White tailed cockatoo
Buff banded rail	Rainbow lorikeet
Large pied cormorant	28s
Coot	Red capped parrot
Little black cormorant	Palid cuckoo
Moorhen	Shining bronze cuckoo
Large black cormorant	Horsfields cuckoo
Common sandpiper	Kookaburra
Darter	Sacred kingfisher
Purple swamphen	Rainbow beeater
Pelican	Barn owl
Egrets	Tree martin
White faced heron	Welcome swallow
Pacific heron	Wagtail
Nankeen night heron	Pipit
Yellow billed spoonbill	Rufus songlark
Straw neck ibis	Black faced cuckoo shrike
Sacred ibis	White wing triller
Shell duck	Rufus whistler
Wood duck	Golden whistler
Black duck	Grey fantail
Mallard	Little grassbird
Shoveller	Reed warbler
Grey teal	Splendid wren
Chestnut teal	Western warbler
Musk duck	Yellow rumped thornbill
Black swan	Weebill
Sparrow hawk	Red wattlebird
Swamp harrier	Singing honeyeater
Black shouldered kite	Brown honeyeater
Osprey	White cheeked honeyeater
Kestrel	New Holland honeyeater
Banded stilt	Mistletoe bird
Crested tern	Striated pardalote
Caspian tern	Magpie lark
Silver gull	Grey butcherbird
Crested pigeon	Magpie
Spotted turtle dove	Raven

## Ashfield Womens' Team

Ashfield soccer club has recently taken under its wing a new group of women to create their first women's teams in 20 years. These 'Lady Reds' are bringing joy, fitness and a fair amount of friendly banter to the soccer club whilst also allowing opportunities for ladies of any age range to come in and enjoy a sport that is loved on an international level.

The coaches, Leanne Hill and Tess Smythe have put an enormous amount of effort, alongside Lynsey Hill the Women's Co-ordinator, to create a welcoming, supportive and engaging environment. The ladies play in the Football West North Metro League with a Division 1 and 2 team, with the plan in 2019 to recruit for a third team.

The ladies who train on Wednesdays and play on Sundays, are also dedicating their time at club events, volunteering time around the club and coming down, families in tow, to support the State men's teams. The Div 2 team took a sociable but competitive approach finishing happily in the middle of the ladder whilst the Div 1 team pushes players to the best of their ability and lung capacity, currently sitting within the top 4. The first year has been a great success and it looks like the future will be looking even better for these ladies as they continue to enjoy and develop their sense of family at the club, their skills and their confidence to participate in a community sport.

Claire Knight, a new player and member to the Ashfield was asked about her thoughts on joining the team " As someone who has never played the sport before, it has been a delight getting to know these girls, learn with their support and plenty of patience, and play in a sport I have grown to love. I cannot emphasise enough how welcoming and friendly these ladies are regardless of whether you have two left feet or should be playing elite football, everyone is welcome.

For more information on joining the Lady Reds in 2019, please contact Lynsey Hill on 0402031981.

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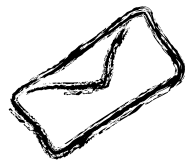
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## Letter to the Editor: Ashfield Flats

I believe the WA Planning Commission involvement in Ashfield Flats is a wonderful idea. It will never be the pristine wetland it once was but this initiative will return the largest remaining wetland on the Swan River to a state where it once again contributes to the health of the entire river system. There is little doubt it was once a breeding ground for many of the microorganisms and aquatic animals upon which other marine life and water birds ultimately depend. I also believe the Town's stance on reducing the amount of herbicides entering our Ashfield Flats through road drains and storm water openings is producing positive and healthy effects; particularly noticeable is the return of frogs and therefore birds.

The plan for the actual Ashfield Flats wetland aside, I harbour two concerns relating to the separate 'River' aspect of the plan. Firstly I have little faith the 'temporary' fence along the river will remain so. I base this lack of trust on the past performance of those responsible for fencing off Ashfield Parade Reserve. People were told during public consultation (a hallmark of this current council) meetings for this project in 2008 the fence was temporary, scheduled to be removed in about 2012. This was reinforced in writing and on large street posters. Furthermore the proponents of this plan told people specifically no tree would be planted to exceed 0.6 of a metre, so as not to 'obstruct views' of the river from nearby residents and people who enjoy interacting with the river as they picnicked on the banks (as they once did) or stroll by. Community members were placated by these false assurances and raised no objection as a consequence. Indeed the Council agreed to the plan on this basis. The fence remains (and has become a hedge) and trees that now exceed 8 metres were immediately planted inside the fenced area. The group also indicated they would install effective anti-erosion measures along an area locals refer to as a White Rocks. This has not happened and much of the expensive remedial work has been washed away, as has the steep riverbank. I was told at a council meeting they were would now try new things. Inconceivably it seems the exercise by a group with international credentials in erosion management has been a hugely expensive (experimental) failure. We did gain a fishing platform, however we are yet to see anyone fish from it due to its poor design.

Our entire community now only has less than a kilometre of our river where we can enjoy truly intimate visual amenity with our river; the length of Ashfield Flats. Therefore, my second concern is what I believe to be an unfounded plan to specifically exclude people from enjoying and interacting with the river as they walk adjacent to but not along the



bank. The plan indicates a pathway up to 40m from the river's edge. I know, considering the Ashfield Parade Reserve experience, that existing groves of trees (and new plantings) will absolutely destroy the enjoyment and benefits people obtain from interacting with the beauty of the river and all it has to offer. I have no doubt the planners (none of whom live locally) are good people but I feel there is an ideology at play here. An ideology that theorises people and rivers are incompatible. Yes, there is erosion but it is not people or our pets that are the main contributors. River traffic, particularly large vessels plying the river will inevitably increase and regardless of any 'soft' riverbank erosion prevention methods, wash from this traffic will destroy these measures and erosion will continue, albeit initially at a slower pace. Ironically the short riverbank section to the south of the footbridge is touted as an erosion prevention and revegetation success measure. Irony because this is a place where the footpath is at its closest and the bank is reinforced by low-lying limestone rock; not ideal but a pragmatic and effective defence against inevitable boat wash and ultimately protection of the adjacent wetlands.

We know that Council have no authority over the land and riverbank in question. The Government however has allocated funding for the fence and realigned pathway but must expend the funds soon. The time-frame is alarming as it provides little opportunity for quality public consultation, reinforcing a belief that there will be no or little negotiation in respect of these looming changes.

I believe, more so than many other municipalities, we are a small but well-connected community who care for our environment. An import influence on this is the enjoyment and pleasure we experience as we gather, interact and discuss our surroundings beside and adjacent to our beautiful river. There are alternatives to what is proposed but we need the opportunity to be heard and heeded.

Public comment was afforded by the Town of Bassendean Website Ashfield Flats Concept Plan but the time for comment closed on the 15th of August.

Our Local MP Dave Kelly is watching this project closely and he has expressed some concern. If you feel, as I do, this project is ill considered and contrary to the best interests of people living in Bassendean, please make contact with him and convey your concerns, at [dave.kelly@mp.wa.gov.au](mailto:dave.kelly@mp.wa.gov.au)

Bob Brown

### AshfieldCAN AGM

Are you interested in the people and places of Ashfield? If so we'd love you to part of our organisation. Have an idea for a local project or event? AshfieldCAN can help you make it happen. Come along and be part of the change.

**Monday, September 17th 2018, 7pm**  
**Ashfield Sports Club**

## Ashfield Flats Lookout Plan Taking Shape

During July we held our two Community Consultation & Design Session for the Lookout project overlooking Ashfield Flats. We had wonderful input from a great range of locals and discussed many different ideas, issues and solutions and imagined what we hope that the space will become.

We are committed to creating a design that develops the Lookout as a 'Reflective Community Space overlooking Ashfield Flats' There were lots of different ideas fielded for various options. We are looking forward to seeing a

draft design soon and then going through the process of presenting this to the various stakeholders.

At the end of this Design process will have a concept plan for the whole space and a detailed plan for the Lookout Feature which will be the first stage of the project to be completed.

It is great to see the work currently being done to stabilise the bank and all the additional planting being done by Bassendean Preservation Group. We look forward to continuing to work with local community and other groups such as BPG to build upon the potential of the space.



## Greening Ashfield

Council has committed to a new street tree strategy with the goal of achieving 70% tree canopy on our Town's road reserves, with tree species that will grow big enough to provide shade over a large proportion of the street. In the new budget Council has funded almost triple the number of new street trees compared to previous years. Priority will be placed on planting these trees in those parts of the Town where the power lines have already been put underground throughout Ashfield. The non-power line side of the streets in other areas of the Town will be the second priority.

The new street tree plan will maintain the uniformity of existing established avenues but open up the diversity of tree species which may be planted on other streets' verges that are not already established avenues. Council intends to give property owners more choice over what tree is planted in front of their home and the location in which it is planted. We also want to engage the local Ashfield community in tree planting events to help increase community ownership of our urban forest.

In addition to providing shade and cooling our suburbs, an urban forest will provide food and habitat for birds. Studies have also demonstrated that mature trees in urban areas increase property values. By planting more trees that will grow to a good size at maturity, we will future-proof against the effects of climate change, improve the amenity of Ashfield, and increase property values at the same time.

**Renée McLennan - Mayor**

[crmclennan@bassendean.wa.gov.au](mailto:crmclennan@bassendean.wa.gov.au)

# Dave KELLY

Representing  
Ashfield in  
State Parliament

e [dave.kelly@mp.wa.gov.au](mailto:dave.kelly@mp.wa.gov.au)  
p 9279 9871  
w [www.davekellymp.com](http://www.davekellymp.com)

Ashfield is part of the State Electorate of Bassendean





# River Parks Committee

## Ashfield Flats Restoration Plan - Update

Ashfield Flats is valued by our community for its natural and recreational values it represents the largest remaining river flat in the Perth Metropolitan Area, is a Bush Forever Site and listed in the Directory of Important Wetlands in Australia. The vegetation consists of Melaleuca dominated wetlands, Eucalyptus rudis woodlands and a Threatened Ecological Community of Samphire flats. The area includes the Chapman Street and Kitchener Street Drains (managed by the Department of Water) which flow directly into the Swan River and contribute to water quality of the Swan River.

In May, the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage (PLH, the major landholder) presented a draft Ashfield Flats Works Program 2018-2023 to help guide the future management of the Reserve. The Plan had several stages, the first one being, to reduce further erosion to the river bank by planting a 20 metre vegetation buffer along the bank, reducing public access through temporary fencing, relocating the path 20 -30 metres away from the river and conducting a hydrological study to protect the Samphire community and investigate the natural hydrology and conservation values of the system.

At the May meeting, Council resolved to continue to work with the key stakeholders including the Department of PLH, Department

of Biodiversity Conservation and Attractions (DBCA), the Department of Water (DOW) and the community to enhance the area and protect conservation value whilst facilitating opportunities for recreation.

Council requested the Draft 2018-23 Ashfield Flats Works Program allow, controlled access to the Swan River foreshore and ongoing community consultation via the "Your Say" Town of Bassendean website, Facebook, appropriate signage onsite - to educate and inform the community on the proposed restoration works and a Community Briefing with all stakeholders. The Committee also resolved to write to the Department of Transport review the current boat speed on the upper reaches of the Swan River and undertake a community education and water policing programs;

Public consultation on the Draft 2018-23 Ashfield Flats Works Program was conducted and extended from July - 15th August, 2018. The WAPC (WA Planning Commission) reiterated their willingness to work with the community to get the best possible outcomes. The Department of BCA have also expressed their willingness to work with the community both in the exchange of local knowledge and opportunities for on ground restoration into the future.

In response to a letter from the Town to the Department of Transport (DOT) following the May meeting, DOT advised that after

conducting a study in 2011 they had reduced the boat speed limit from 8 to 5 knots which if complied with this change significantly reduces boat wake. In the 2017-2018 financial year DOT conducted over 200 patrols and issues over 1200 warnings and infringements. The Department is also assisted by DBCA and the Water Police. If you see a speeding boat please record the details and call 9442 8600 or lodge it at <https://www.transport.wa.gov.au/marine/contact-marine-and-coastal.asp>

## Fox and Feral Cat Control

### Ashfield Flats, Bindaring Park & Pickering Park

At the August RPC Meeting the Committee resolved that a cage-trapping program be implemented, targeting both foxes and feral cats within the Ashfield Flats, Bindaring and Pickering Park during the month of October. A public education and information campaign including signage will take place prior trapping. The cost of the program will be divided proportionally on the basis of the land area being managed by Department of Planning Lands & Heritage and Town of Bassendean.

**Cr. Mel Mykytiuk**

[crmykytiuk@bassendean.wa.gov.au](mailto:crmykytiuk@bassendean.wa.gov.au)



## Letter to the Editor Ashfield Parade Riverbank

### Out of Sight, Out of Mind - A Kayak View

The degradation of the riverbank and hinterland associated with the Ashfield Flats is there for all to see. People who care deeply about the health of our river, aim to stop and indeed reverse the damage caused, in particular, by boat traffic.

What is not apparent is the catastrophic damage caused by riverbank erosion along the Northern half of Ashfield Parade at a place once an iconic local swimming place, White Rocks. The unfolding catastrophe is hidden from the view of casual observers by an unsightly (temporary) fence and confusing, messy vegetation that, when viewed in the context of these photographs, serve no practical purpose.

The attached photographs speak for themselves but if commentary is needed it can be said, without fear of contradiction, if an aim of the costly Ashfield Parade Foreshore Restoration Project (Project), now largely concluded but commenced in 2006, was to reduce erosion, it has been an abject failure.

Many trees planted by the Project hang precariously over the precipice of eroding clay cliff faces or lay dead

at their base. Indeed, it seems that their expanding root systems have accelerated erosion by fracturing the ancient hard-packed clay, causing trees and clay to slew off into the river. This seems to be exacerbated by an unforeseen consequence of resurfacing and profiling the asphalt road to serve as a drain, directing rain water into ineffective 'Swales', seemingly robbing the clay of moisture and turning it into

dust. The skeletons of structures placed to prevent erosion litter the river's edge. The surviving barriers and their struggling reeds give the illusion of achievement however their failure is there to see, clearly demonstrated by the deep erosion in continuous cliff faces they were designed to protect.

This is a catastrophe that needs to be acknowledged and addressed before more steep riverbank and old growth trees are lost to this folly.

**Cr. Bob Brown**



## AshfieldCAN President's Report

*It is exciting to see the Lookout project finally getting underway after so many false starts.*

*We look forward to Emma presenting her plan after the community design sessions we had – and then starting to realise part of the plan or as much as can be afforded.*

*We are looking forward to another Dog's breakfast and hope that you will all come and join us on September the 16th down at Sandy Beach Reserve. This will be our ninth Dog's Breakfast! Thanks again to the SES for helping us out with cooking breakfast and to all our sponsors.*

*I am also hopeful that we will be having another History event in Ashfield some time in the next few months. So little of the history of Ashfield is documented and it would be great to collect some more stories from some of our long-term residents.*

*I am sure that there are many of you that have some fabulous stories to tell about what it has been like to live here over the years.*

*Every story both long or short we would love to hear. Some of you may not want to come to an event but have some little snippets that you want to share such as photographs or written stories. Please feel free to contact us if you would like to be involved or have something you would like to share.*

*I moved to Ashfield in 1992 and have found it to be a great place to live so close to the Swan River and with a good community atmosphere. It has been a wonderful place to settle down and raise our two girls. Having been travelling overseas for the last three weeks it has made me appreciate what we have here in Ashfield. The quality of life and the natural assets that we have on our doorstep.*

*It is something to celebrate!*

Lucy Bromell President

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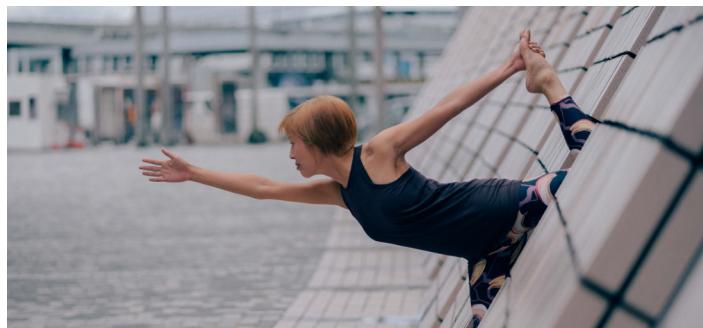
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## AshfieldCAN AGM September 17th 2018

**7pm, Ashfield Sports Club  
Cnr Haig St and Colstoun Rd  
Making a difference in our local community**

### YOGA IN ASHFIELD

*Did you know you can now attend Yoga classes in Ashfield? Rachel lives in Ashfield and runs local classes. Restore your health through Hatha Yoga. Wed 6pm and Sat 7:30am at Ashfield Sports Club Invest \$12 for your wellbeing. Check out the website [www.vaiyoga.com.au](http://www.vaiyoga.com.au) or contact Rachel on 0466 835 605 or email [rachellau@vaiyoga.com.au](mailto:rachellau@vaiyoga.com.au) if you have any queries.*



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