



Storage Cube Acquired

In the years since the inception of AshfieldCAN the network has accumulated bits and pieces to support our community engagement activities. Up until recently these 'Treasures' have been stored at various members' homes. This was not ideal and gathering everything together for an event became too much of a logistical ordeal.

Now, however, we have acquired a secure mini storage cube which is housed 'temporarily' adjacent to the change rooms at the Ashfield Sports Club. The cube will provide secure storage and serve us well into the future.

The cube was purchased with grant funds provided by the Town of Bassendean and supported by Royal Wolf Containers on Railway Parade. Peter Richards and his team discounted the purchase cost of the cube and transported it at no cost; well done!

The general idea was to locate the cube at the Gary Blanch Reserve in order to roll out our barbeque, tables, chairs and gazebo etc. right to where they would be mostly used. But this is only part of the plan. The creative team at AshfieldCAN have greater things in mind.....Stay tuned.

Bob Brown AshfieldCAN Vice President



Notes from Verna
Suburb Manager
Ashfield
Ph: 0432 563 800

I recently spoke to Sergeant Rick Di Castro at Kiara Police Station. He passed on the information that the owners of the Ashfield IGA store will ensure that anyone caught offending within the store will be appropriately dealt with.

Sergeant Di Castro also informed me that there has been increasing instances of parked cars being broken into and thefts occurring in Ashfield. Don't make it easy for thieves by leaving valuables such as mobile phones and other tempting items on display.

A pattern of number plate stealing has also emerged, with stolen plates being used in criminal activities. Anti-theft screws for number plates are being ordered at Kiara Police Station. If you want them, please contact Sergeant Di Castro at Kiara Police Station on 9376 7000 and state that you are an Ashfield resident and that you received this information via the local AshfieldCAN Neighbourhood Watch Newsletter.

If you haven't yet joined Neighbourhood Watch and would like to do so, my e-mail address is : verba1@optusnet.com.au

Upcoming AshfieldCAN Meeting Dates 2016

You are very welcome to attend June 20th

July 18th August 15th

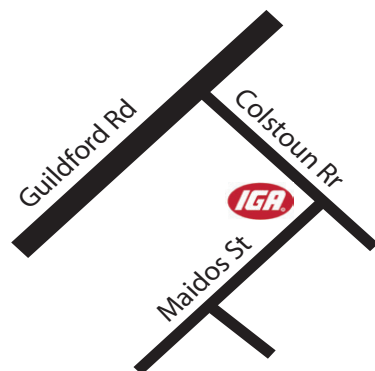
September 19th (AGM)

All meetings start at 7pm at Ashfield Sports Club

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JUNE 2016

Helping to build a better community

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Vol 6 No 2

Ashfield
www.ashfieldcan.info

New
Business
Section for
Local Services.
See P.3

Next
AshfieldCAN
meeting 20th
June 7pm
Ashfield Sports
Club

**Saturday
18th June, 2pm
Gary Blanch Reserve**

**PLANTING DAY
& BUSY BEE**

Come and help transform
our park into a spring
wonderland!
Afternoon Tea
provided

Ashfield
Flats in
Flood

Cake Stall &
Sausage Sizzle
Election Day
July 2nd at
Ashfield Primary
School

Ron Courtney Island Osprey Family

Over the past few months a lot of interest has been shown in the Osprey family which have nested in a tree on Ron Courtney Island.

Osprey vary in length between 55 – 65 cm and have a wingspan of 1.5 metres. The female is slightly larger than the male.

They are found along the coast, on off shore islands and along the Swan River. This is the furthest up river I have seen them but for many years there has been a nest on the radio tower on the Ascot side of the river near the Garratt Road Bridge.

The pair began building their nest which is visible from the Roy Hookway platform in April last year. Over the next several months they added to the structure until finally deciding things were just right and settled down to lay and raise their family. Breeding is usually April – November and both male and female build the nest. The male provides most of the material & the female rearranges it in the nest which is lined with bark, grass or seaweed.

Osprey are generally monogamous and the same nest is often used year after year and with additional material added annually it can grow very large.

As the pair on the island have been seen again recently we hope they've decided it's a good spot and will raise another family there this season.

The incubation period is between 34 – 36 days and normally 2 or 3 eggs are laid



but occasionally there are 4. Females usually incubate the eggs while the male supplies her with fish.

Once the chicks are hatched the female cares for them while the male continues to provide food.

Both parents fish as the chicks grow larger and by the time they are one month old the chicks have reached 70 – 80% of the adult size. At around 2 months of age they have developed feathers capable of flying and gradually wing flapping increases until they are able to lift a little off the nest. This is called helicoptering. For at least two weeks after fledging the young stay close to the nest improving their flying skills and during this time return to the nest for food brought by the parents.

Soon after they begin to make attempts to catch fish for themselves and once they master this task and their parents refuse to feed them they leave home.

Having watched this pair successfully raise their two chicks we've grown quite fond of them and look forward to this seasons developments.

Geoff & Jan Addison

New Plaques

If you have visited Gary Blanch Reserve recently you might have noticed the two new signs we have installed. So make sure you pause to have a closer look on your way through the park, we love local stories and we think these two are both great. One of the signs tells the amazing story of the heroism of the park's namesake Gary Blanch and other tells the story of our journey with the Town of Bassendean to redevelop the reserve.



The Story of our Park



The Story of Gary Blanch

A Bright Future Ahead at Ashfield Primary School



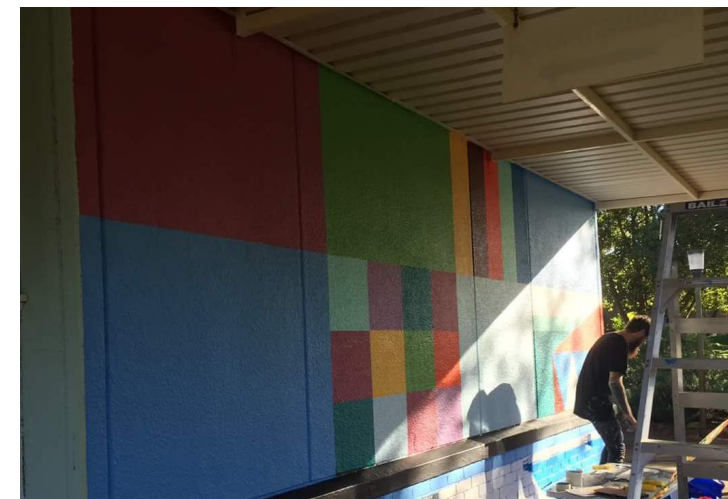
Ashfield Primary School continues to look toward a bright future both academically and aesthetically. With recent results published in the School Plan showing an upward trend in academic achievement and in school testing outlining individual student gains it is full steam ahead for the school community.

The introduction of computers into each classroom as well as iPads that have been provided by the school P&C gaining a grant from Bendigo Bank in Bayswater has allowed teachers and students to engage in the curriculum and participate in exciting learning opportunities.

Further to this the Arts program continues to add extra flair to the curriculum by introducing African Drumming in Music and the opportunity to work with an Artist in Residence for some of the senior students. Perth Artist Brenton See has begun transforming the front of the school with his colourful artwork that was designed in collaboration with students from Room 14. Brenton's finished mural will include animals from the local area as well as some designs from the students themselves. We look forward to seeing the finished product.

Do stay for a sausage sizzle after voting on July 2nd.

Matthew Snell Principal Ashfield Primary School



Murals in the making



Pizza in the Park

We had a wonderful evening enjoying our first Pizza in the Park on April the 22nd. The free pizza made for a great easy Friday night dinner and we had a terrific turn out with about 50 adults and kids catching up with neighbours, making new friends and enjoying our beautiful Gary Blanch Reserve. We hope to hold more Pizza in the Park evenings in the future so come along and enjoy the fun.



AshfieldCAN Committee
Lucy Bromell - President
Bob Brown - Vice President
Lenny McLeod - Secretary
Dave Ring - Treasurer

AshfieldCAN: PO Box 297 Bayswater WA

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e dave.kelly@mp.wa.gov.au

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w www.davekellymp.com

Ashfield is part of the State Electorate of Bassendean





River Forum Review

The River Forum II presented a fantastic selection of speakers which were really appreciated by the audience.

The evening started with a brief history of the Ashfield Flats presented by Town of Bassendean Councillor Paul Bridges and Natasha Keper from the Bassendean Preservation Group.

It was great to hear a little of the history and to see photos of the change the Bassendean preservation Group have made to the area with all their planting activities.

This was followed by our main speaker Julie Robert, CEO of SERCUL talking about the Bannister Creek Project. The Bannister Creek Project is by all standards and impressive achievement and a fabulous example of how great things can be achieved when community and government can work together to achieve an outcome.

Julie's inspiring talk was followed by a great presentation on Mosquito control by Dr Rose Weerasinghe. Mosquitoes are an ongoing problem but Rose gave us an insight into the benefits gained by creating healthy wetlands and how this will naturally help to control mosquitoes. Rose also spoke about the need for more education across the community to help control mosquito populations as evidence suggests that much mosquito breeding goes on in our own backyards!

The next speaker was Jeremy Maher, The environmental

Officer from The City of Bayswater. Jeremy spoke passionately about the project at Eric Singleton Bird Sanctuary to remediate the wetlands and at the same time improve the water quality of the water flowing from the main drain in Bayswater into the Swan River.

Both The Bannister Creek project and the Eric Singleton Project have outcomes that can clearly measure the improvement to the quality of the environment in a number of different ways.

Paul Bridges then spoke briefly about the newly formed River Parks Committee and who was on this committee. This will be the committee that will be making decisions about our wetlands, our Ashfield Flats.

The last part of the evening was dedicated to what the community can do towards supporting such a process and so we asked Mick Doyle to talk about the potential for "Citizen Science" Projects. Ways the community can gather information that becomes the data that can be used to support decisions that are made about this important area.

Bob Brown, Councillor Town of Bassendean and Chair of the River Parks Committee also presented a personal vision of what he would like to see the Ashfield flats look like in the forms of a painting. Having a vision and working out how to make it happen are important steps to finding the solutions.

Lucy Bromell AshfieldCAN President

Our Dogs' Breakfast Sponsors



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Ben Ludlow Automotive Engineer

Dogs Breakfast 2016 - Blessed

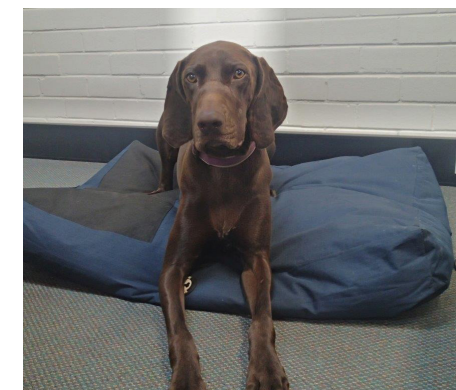
Thank you to all that attended the 2016 Dog's Breakfast. Thank you to all that helped make it a great day. It was a fun morning blessed with good weather, good sponsors, good crowd, and a great time was had by all. Thank you to the SES for cooking us all a fabulous breakfast and thanks to the other community groups that chose to join us. It was great to be joined by the Bassendean Preservation Group, CJS Arts house and the River Parks Committee giving us an insight into what they do. The competitions were again hotly contested with some worthy winners of the smartest dog competition and the Dog that looked most like its owner!



The fancy Dress box was also popular. Skye - winner of the smartest Dog competition won't go hungry with the large bag of dog food donated by My Pet warehouse. We had some great prizes this year thanks to some generous sponsors. Carol Lilley won the major raffle prize of a dog bed for

Freya donated by My Pet Warehouse. We also had the a Meta Fit demonstration thanks to Pat and Teagan. The SES volunteers were clearly the fittest of us all as they managed to go through all the rounds of the workout.

Lucy Bromell



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Our Flats in the Autumn of 2016

Bassendean River Parks Management Committee

The River Parks Committee, although in its infancy, is gathering momentum towards achieving the objective of managing and improving the five kilometres of river and parks over which the Town has custodianship.

We have recruited a very strong mixture of government and community committee members, as well as private sector expertise.

Missing from the mix was a formal representative of AshfieldCAN. Although members of AshfieldCAN form part of the membership, these members have different roles. For example, I am the vice president of AshfieldCAN but I represent the Town as a councillor.

This anomaly was overcome at the last R&P meeting when

the motion was passed to formally approach our group to nominate a member to the committee. Our President Lucy Bromell will most likely take up the role as there is no-one more dedicated to the health of our river.

Full details of the R&P meetings appear on the Town of Bassendean website. If you don't have access to the web, give me a call and I'll secure you a copy.

As an aside, at the recent community river forum hosted by AshfieldCAN I produced a pencil and watercolour sketch of Ashfield Flats that went into the mix of ideas of how we can achieve results by working together. I have included a copy for you to look at. It's not meant to be anything other than a picture containing some of the elements that others with environmental expertise have suggested. Such as converting the two straight drains into meandering, living streams. Creating deeper ponds where water currently gathers to encourage life that devours mosquitoes. Ensuring the safety

of our nesting birds and other animals by building in small vegetated islands, providing tidal access to mix correctly with fresh water as it arrives and ensuring the health of our native and unique species of Samphire.

The 'Flats' will never be the same pristine wetlands that existed before the arrival of Europeans. Too much interference has occurred. What we can do is use our ingenuity, and learn



from the success of others, to create a sanctuary for aquatic wildlife and native animals, a system that will give back to the river rather than damage it and create a place of joy and contemplation for all the community. **Cr. Bob Brown**



Water logged Ashfield Flats after a storm May 2016

"Citizen Science" at Ashfield Flats

AshfieldCAN is currently exploring opportunities for Citizen Science projects that we could help facilitate on the Ashfield Flats. Citizen Science projects are a way for the general public to provide meaningful contributions to scientific research. They also help to tell the real story of the Flats. Some of the activities that could occur as part of Citizen Science project include; written observations, photographs, collecting samples and video/audio recordings.

We are examining a wide range of options to further our ideas. We are looking for researchers to collaborate with, looking at existing national and state based citizen science projects, various mobile apps and also exploring some of our own ideas.

We want to find out more about the Flats. We want to know what makes it so special and also what challenges it faces. We also believe that there is wealth of existing local knowledge about the Flats and we hope to find a way to capture that. So what are you curious about? What questions would you like examined? Let us know by emailing us at info@ashfieldcan.info

Citizen science is another great way that we can all contribute to the future wellbeing of the Flats.

Our first activity will be a Walking Tour of the Flats to be held on Saturday the 16th of July, meeting at 2.00pm at the Sandy Beach Reserve Carpark. Afternoon Tea provided.

Mayor's Message

As we get closer to adopting the Town budget for next financial year, I want to acknowledge the many achievements of AshfieldCAN over the past year. Council has unanimously supported the continued good work of the AshfieldCAN by allocating an annual grant of \$10,000 toward projects developed by the AshfieldCAN and that benefit the community in Ashfield.

I note the plaques installed in Gary Blanch Reserve that tell the story of the man and of the renovation project in partnership with the Town. Gary Blanch Reserve development was a major achievement but the AshfieldCAN is not standing still to bask in their achievements. Advocacy for better management practices in Ashfield Flats is of growing importance for AshfieldCAN and this can only lead to a healthier wetland for all to appreciate.

On another note Ashfield has been short listed and is one of three venues under consideration to become the home of Football West. What would it mean to the community in Ashfield? For one thing it will guarantee the preservation of Ashfield Reserve as open space. It will mean an investment of many millions of dollars into new facilities on the Reserve and the opportunity to separate the playing surfaces from near vicinity to Haig Street residences. It is a long shot – and there is no commitment by Government at this time. But it is another of the many exciting planning processes in our Town that makes our Town a great place to live. Kind regards

Cr. John Gangell, Mayor, Town of Bassendean

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