

The Village at Wellard

Friends of Wellard Environment Group Information Session: Minutes

Date/Time – Wednesday, 3 March 2010, 7.30pm to 9pm

Venue – Wellard Community Pavilion, Wellard Road, Wellard

Attendees	Organisation
Ryan Munro (RM)	Environmental Coordinator, Town of Kwinana
Julie Robert (JR)	Regional Coordinator, South East Regional Centre for Urban Landcare
Paul van der Moezel (PvdM)	Coffey Environments, The Village at Wellard
Yvonne Kristel	Resident, Homestead Ridge
Jack	Resident, Homestead Ridge
Jenn and Steve Grahame	Residents, The Village at Wellard
Tracey Robertson	Resident, Homestead Ridge
James Cleverley	Resident, The Village at Wellard
Kathleen Verrier	President, Homestead Ridge Progress Association
Erin Borrett (EB)	Creating Communities Australia, The Village at Wellard

Item	Discussion
1. Welcome and introductions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community Environmental Reference Group
2. What is a Friends of Group? Overview	<p>Julie Robert, Regional Coordinator, South East Regional Centre for Urban Landcare (SERCUL)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> SERCUL provides a range of support services to Friends of Groups, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Start up and ongoing (forming, storming, norming and performing) support and technical advice. Public Liability and volunteer insurance – Membership to SERCUL automatically covers the group. It is very important that a new group is aware of and addresses its legal responsibilities when starting up.

- Production of a booklet for each member Friends of Group, including design and print. This booklet is handed out to people who enquire about volunteering in a group's locality.
 - Assistance with the group's visioning process.
 - Working with the group to produce a logo. It is very important that the group creates an identity for itself.
 - Production of a quarterly newsletter which can be used by groups to promote their activities.
 - The Volunteer Coordinator at SERCUL can also provide assistance to groups.
- JR provided RM with a Friends of Manual, outlining details regarding Friends Groups and how Council can support these groups.
 - JR also provided a questionnaire to be completed by members that will help the group to understand why it needs to form, their purpose, support networks, focus areas, vision and other details.
 - Kathleen Verrier asked how SERCUL is funded. JR advised that SERCUL receives a third of its funding from the Federal Government; one third from State Government and one third is self generated.

Action: Erin to distribute SERCUL questionnaire to group members.

3. Town of Kwinana's support of Friends of Groups

Ryan Munro, Environmental Coordinator, Town of Kwinana (ToK).

- Four active Friends groups in Kwinana.
1. **Wandi Landcare Group**
 - Concerned with revegetation of Lake Majinup.
 2. **Kwinana Beach Coast Care Group**
 - This group is not incorporated and is facilitated by Craig Wilson, a Town of Kwinana officer whose position is state and federally funded.
 - Group comprises an informal membership of volunteers who assist Craig with various activities such as clean up and planting days.
 3. **Friends of Spectacles Wetlands**
 - Supported by the DEC.
 - Weed control, community events.
 4. **Homestead Ridge Progress Association**
 - Progress Association members participate in environmental activities.
- There is currently 4,500ha of bushland in the ToK. At the end of urbanisation in around 10 year's time, this will reduce to 3,500ha.
 - The majority of the bush is vested with the Department of Env and Conservation, for example Leda Nature Reserve and the Spectacles. Remaining bush is private property.
 - There is currently 250ha of local reserves vested with the ToK. Over next 10 years, this will double to 500ha.
 - The ToK supports local environmental groups in a variety of ways.
 - Grants - assists with writing and reviewing applications, ensures applications reflect the aims and objectives of the Town's Strategic Bush Land Management Plan and provides letters of support. Also auspices grants –

administers and acquits grants.

- Training – provides training sessions for members on various topics, for example weed and plant identification.
- Provides volunteer insurance, although this does not cover volunteers working on non-council land.
- Attends and supports community activities and events, such as tree planting days.
- Can provide transport for seedlings, mulch etc.
- Have donated seedlings for planting activities.
- Provide ongoing support and technical advice to groups – the Town has a lot of expertise in revegetation, restoration, weed control.
- Four potential focus areas for the Friends of Wellard Env Group
 - Urban Biodiversity (throughout suburb)
 - Interface with Homestead Ridge
 - Wetlands
 - Leda Nature Reserve

5. Wetlands and bushland – an overview

Paul van der Moezel, Coffey Environments, The Village at Wellard.

- Additional potential focus areas for the Friends of Wellard Env Group
 - Wetlands – northern and southern wetlands. The Wellard Joint Venture is implementing a Wetlands Management Plan. Activities to date have included water level and bandicoot monitoring, revegetation programs including community tree planting activities and installation of a limestone pathway and boardwalk and signage will be installed in the near future. Ongoing work is needed, including weeding and maintenance. There is also a Drainage and Nutrient Management Plan in relation to the wetlands and the development.
 - Bushforever site adjacent the Leda Nature Reserve & Homestead Ridge. This site is or soon will be managed by the WA Planning Commission. This area is currently undefined on the ground, but its boundaries will become clearer once clearing has commenced for future stages of The Village at Wellard.
 - Abingdon Green – the bush in this park area is in good condition.
- A flora survey of The Village at Wellard site prior to development was carried out and is available to the Friends of Group.
- Other environmental activities undertaken by the Wellard Joint Venture include supporting the production, monitoring and installation of possum boxes, fauna relocation programs prior to land clearing and salvaging hollow logs, which have been installed in trees around the Village, in the neighbouring school and people's yards.
- Through the Wellard JV, Coffey Environments can support the Friends of Group through expertise and advice.

6. General discussion

- Kathleen Verrier – President of Homestead Ridge Progress Association. The Progress Association has a strong emphasis on the environment. The Association meets quarterly and produces and distributes a community newsletter. They are happy to support a Friends of Wellard Environment Group.
- While there are several areas this Friends Group could potentially focus on, the general consensus of the group was that they need to ensure they aren't

'spreading themselves too thin'.

- JR suggested that the group could alternate work between two focus areas.
- Jack suggested there could be an opportunity to link local Friends Groups together share resources, and provide assistance to each other. JR - often the big events such as National Tree Day are a good opportunity for local groups to work together.
- JR said it is important for the group to have an understanding the catchment for area they will be working in and associated risks.
- PvdM advised the next round of clearing for The Village at Wellard is scheduled for this winter. Tanya asked if the BushForever Site (BFS) will be fenced to ensure that contractors do not inadvertently damage this bush while clearing for the development. While fencing is not a requirement, Paul agreed to look into this option with the developer.
- In preparation for the next meeting, more research is required to determine the focus areas for the group.
- EB advised that The Village at Wellard will be hosting a community event near the Henley Bushland (northern wetlands) on Sunday, 16 May from 10am to 12pm.

Key focuses of this event will be to promote and generate interest the Friends of Group, educate people about the wetlands and activate the area. The event will include walks through the wetlands, activities, speakers and entertainment.

Action: EB to distribute group contact details to members.

Action: PvdM to follow up request for fencing around the BFS prior to clearing in winter.

Action: RM to investigate if the Homestead Ridge drainage plans are available through Council.

Action: Members to consider why they are interested in belonging to a Friends Group prior to the next meeting.

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7. Next meeting The next meeting of the Friends Group will focus on developing a strategy for moving the group forward.

Date Monday 12 April, 7pm to 8.30pm