



GOODE NEWS

March 2018

Message from the President

New committee

Not only does the FBA have a new committee, elected at the Annual General Meeting on 28 February 2018, but a new President – me – Catherine Macdonald! For the first time, we have an all-woman Executive Committee, with Chris Hopper continuing ably as Secretary, and Elly Beckeringh rejoining as Treasurer. Continuing committee members are our immediate past President, Tony Kinlay, Clare Mitchell and John Myers. We are joined on the committee by first-timers Jenni Leonard, Ian Herford and Robin Budden. We have had our first committee meeting and are looking forward to a busy and enjoyable year of community-based activities.

Resort development proposals in Goode Beach

To my amazement, there are currently two proposals for 'five-star resorts' in play for our small suburb of Goode Beach! The City of Albany has advised that the Lot 660 'Vancouver Beach Resort' matter will not come before Council in April 2018, as the proponents are revising certain aspects of their proposals. The City will advise the FBA and we will advise members when the proposal becomes active again.

In the meantime, the proposal for the 'Frenchman Bay Retreat' on Lots 1 & 2 (the old caravan park) has revived, to be decided upon by the Joint Development Assessment Panel. The City will accept comments until April 3rd, immediately after Easter. The FBA will put in a submission to the effect that we are pleased to see how much the project has been modified to take into account the concerns expressed in community comments in 2015, in that it no longer includes an

unrestricted stay component, scheme water will be supplied and a high-technology effluent treatment plant is proposed. We will be encouraging the City to ask the proponents to save as many trees as possible, both for screening and for wildlife habitat and suggest that they work with the FBA on weed control processes. We will also recommend that the City engage in and insist upon landscape redesign and upgrading of facilities at Whalers Beach as part of the redevelopment of the whole area. This should ensure that the general community benefits from the development rather than just suffering from the crowding that the additional people from the resort will cause.

Make your comment

Anyone wanting to view the Lots 1 & 2 proposal documents may do so at: <http://www.albany.wa.gov.au/council/comments-complaints/public-comment/> The City provides the following advice for those wishing to comment by **April 3rd**.

Please address comments to City of Albany, PO Box 484, Albany WA 6330, quoting reference number P2170633. If possible, please provide an email address to allow us to contact you regarding your comment on this proposal. Alternatively, comments may be emailed to planning@albany.wa.gov.au. Should you have any queries or wish to discuss this application please call (08) 6820 3040.

We hope you enjoy this edition of *Goode News*. On behalf of the committee, I wish everyone a happy Easter.

Catherine Macdonald – Mob.: 0434 14 84 63.

World Wetlands Day – 2 February

Warren Flynn writes 'thank you to all of those who supported our World Wetlands Day Events and continue to support our Save the Lake campaign.'



Photo: Warren Flynn

Petition

1,344 signatures were collected during a one month period commencing on 13th January 2018. This petition was offered to people in public places (Farmers' Market, Wetlands events, etc.), as well as through more personal contacts. 911 electors of Albany signed the white sheet (for locals), together with 433 citizens of other areas. 'Non-locals' included people from close locations, such as Denmark and Mt Barker, together with a large number of other West Australians.

International tourists and visitors from Canada, France, Singapore, Germany, UK, etc. also featured. When shown the location of the proposed development less than 50m from the beach and so close to a unique and historically significant lake, most people were dismayed. Once aware of the facts; including the threats to flora and fauna, and the risk of serious beach erosion through dune destruction, people were eager to sign. It was also heartening to see several non FBA citizens collecting petition signatures to help protect this special part of Vancouver Peninsula.

The petition has now been submitted to the City of Albany and the Department of Planning. We await official responses.



Photo: Warren Flynn

A special HUGE THANK YOU to Sarah McNamara [pictured above] who painted the banner, designed and printed the postcards (for the online petition), and with her daughter, Mahina set up the FBA Facebook page:<https://www.facebook.com/Frenchman-Bay-Association-FBA-137923590237725/>

Also MASSIVE THANK YOU to Linda Matthews for coordinating the Wetlands Day events, and to Linda and Robin Budden [pictured below] for their tireless work on every petition gathering day!



Photo: Warren Flynn

We still have some postcards and bumper stickers left. Please contact Warren Flynn (9844 4346) if you need some more.'

Private access roads in Goode Beach by Rob Harley

Within the Goode Beach subdivision, there is a number of sealed or partly-sealed access roads that provide vehicle access to one or more privately-owned blocks; most of which are battle-axe blocks. These include three access roads off La Perouse Road (to Lots 662/664; Lots 153/154/155/156/157/235 and Lot 609); two access roads off La Perouse Court (to Lots 654/655/656/657 and Lot 660); one access road at the corner of Klem Road/Fynd St (to Lots 149/150/234/235) and one access road at the western end of Karrakatta Road (to Lots 601/602). At the end of La Perouse Road, the access road to Lot 609 also provides right-of-way to Lots 604 and 605. In all cases, adjoining lots have reciprocal rights-of-carriageway over one another. As a requirement of the West Australian Planning Commission, these rights-of-carriageway were established on the Diagram of Survey at the time of subdivision of the respective lots. Houses have been constructed (or are under construction) on a number of these blocks while other blocks are vacant land. These access roads are highlighted in pink on the map below (please note that La Perouse Court extends as a public road to just past the walking path to the beach that is adjacent to Lot 652).



These access roads are private property; not public roads and form part of the one or more lots which are serviced by the access road. A number of the access roads have signs erected near the entrance indicating that the road is a private road.

Some of these access roads have been or are being used by pedestrian traffic, that is to access the beach access path off La Perouse Court or the bird hide. Technically, this pedestrian traffic is trespassing on private property. The fact that all of the access roads are sealed or partly sealed has possibly led to the misunderstanding by some that the access roads are public roads. In some

instances, landowners have tolerated or are tolerating the use of the access roads and informal tracks over their land for pedestrian use; especially where the block is vacant land. Some landowners of vacant land are possibly unaware that pedestrian traffic is occurring on their property. Recent house constructions have resulted in pedestrians walking over private property in close proximity to occupied houses.

It is requested that pedestrians respect the privacy of householders/landowners and, unless a landowner has given permission for pedestrian traffic over/through their property, pedestrians should use the public roads. A potential further issue for landowners could be a public liability event if someone was injured while on private property. While many householders would have public liability cover, it is unlikely that the owners of vacant land would have public liability insurance cover in place.

Sea Lizards on Goode Beach by Phil Roberts

A number of very weird-looking marine creatures were recently washed up onto Goode Beach [see photo below]. These marine molluscs are called *Glaucus atlanticus* or *Glaucus marginata*, and are also known as 'Sea Lizards'.



Photo: Phil Roberts

Sea Lizards are pelagic nudibranchs that feed mainly on Blue Bottle jellyfish. Floating upside down with the aid of a gas-filled sac in the stomach and surface tension, Sea Lizards drift vast distances carried by the wind and the currents. They were first noted during Captain Cook's second voyage to the Pacific, in HMS *Resolution* and recorded by scientist Johann Forster and his son in a 1777 publication.

Their upper surface is blue, or blue and

white which helps to camouflage Sea Lizards from predation by sea birds above and is also thought to offer protection against harmful UV sun light, while their under surface is silvery grey to effectively camouflage them from fish looking up from below. This is a textbook example of colour counter-shading.

However, blending with the environment is just the first line of defence for this beautiful creature. It appears that once they have preyed upon a Blue Bottle jellyfish [see photo below], they have the ability to ingest the Blue Bottle's venomous stinging cells (nematocysts) and store them for their own use.



Photo: Stambergova, S., 2004 (Feb 13) Physalia from Western Australia. [Message in] Sea Slug Forum. Australian Museum, Sydney. Available from <http://www.seaslugforum.net/find/12173>

When Sea Lizards are out of water, they have a tendency to roll into a little ball, but will open up again the moment they are placed back into water.

On the internet there are a number of 'enthusiasts' wanting to obtain a Sea Lizard to keep as a pet. However, due to its unique diet of fresh Blue Bottle jellyfish, keeping one of these creatures in captivity would pose considerable logistical difficulties. They are also capable of inflicting a painful sting when handled.

Goode Beach beachcombers by Roz Boccardo

I heard through the grapevine recently that there will soon be more FBA involvement with protecting marine life and species. So I thought I would share a photo of a Baler shell with slug that Bill Watson found on Whalers Beach with Max and myself while out and about walking the dogs. We found it partially buried in the sand on the shore line just near the spring. Blessings from Eco-Warrior Rozita!



Photo: Roz Boccardo

Snorkelling video by Ginny Probert

We all enjoy the beach but if you'd like to experience the world below the surface here's a link to a video my partner and I filmed snorkelling around Frenchman Bay and Goode Beach. It was a home video originally intended for my family so some of it's just footage of me trying to dive and hold my breath but after

friends gave me some positive feed back, I'd like to share it with you, my neighbours.



Photo: Ginny Probert

Only a few metres off shore and my mask became the best television screen I'd ever looked at! All the colours of the rainbow are down there. The octopus, molluscs, coral, even the ripples of light on the seabed are all amazing but my favourite is when fish swim close or just float in rhythm with the kelp. It's a secret parallel world where nothing is not of nature! Please enjoy my short film 'High Tide or Low Tide' at <https://vimeo.com/248431879>

Invitation to join a book club in Goode Beach

We are a core group of six regulars and 4-5 others come and go. No men in our group...yet! This is our third year of meeting. We all live in the neighbourhood and meet on the first Tuesday evening of each month at 7:30pm, in each other's homes, taking it in turns. We are a diverse and inclusive group, gender-neutral, who enjoy lively respectful discussion. Some of us are more literary than others but we all enjoy reading books. Next meetings are on April 3 discussing *Three Day Road* by Joseph Boyden and then on May 1 *I Heard the Owl Call My Name* by Margaret Craven. New members are welcome. Contact Jan at seaformiles25@hotmail.com or 98444129 or 0437151384.

Rabbit meets snake by Max Angus

Bill Watson and I were returning from an early morning dog walk when he spotted a rabbit having an affair with a python on the verge of La Perouse Road. He took some shots with his phone. I walked home to get my camera and by the time I had returned the two had got stuck into it.



Photo: Max Angus

Here's what I saw. The rabbit (deceased) was moving down the snake's gullet at about a centimetre every 30 seconds or so as the snake contracted its muscles. A family member observed that it looked like childbirth in reverse.

An hour later I returned and photographed the snake but the rabbit had disappeared (sort of). Can you spot the rabbit (I'm joking.)? On next visit, a further hour later, the snake had disappeared.



Photo: Max Angus

Southern carpet pythons

Pythons are common in the Albany region. Some residents at Goode Beach have regular visits. When mature they average about 2.5 metres in length and have that greenish-brown pattern on their skin. Remember, they are quite harmless to humans so please avoid driving over one if you see it on a road. We've had a few casualties in recent years.

Well what did happen to the rabbit? According to my internet searches when a python grabs a prey its metabolism goes into overdrive and its organs secrete 'juices' that quickly dissolve the material in its stomach, even the bones of a mammal. Most likely in five or so days, the rabbit would have been turned into mush. The python would find a place to curl up and rest. It would take up to a month before it felt peckish again.

COMING EVENTS

Bush weeding Busy Bee

Saturday 14 April 10.00–12.30

Goode Beach carpark

Come along and help keep our bush beautiful and weed-free.

Dress for the occasion – long sleeved shirt, long pants, sturdy shoes and gloves.

It should be fun!

Keep an eye out for signs and stay up to date with the FBA Facebook page.

For further information call Robin on 0417 986 574 or Linda on 0401 348 845.

CALLING FOR CONTRIBUTIONS

Got a story or want to advertise or place a community message on the Goode News or FBA website Noticeboard?

If you have news of interest to the Goode Beach community for inclusion in the *Goode News* or on the FBA website please contact FBA Secretary Chris Hopper (cghopper@gmail.com).

FBA Website address:

<https://frenchmanbayassociation.com/>

FBA Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/Frenchman-Bay-Association-FBA-137923590237725/>