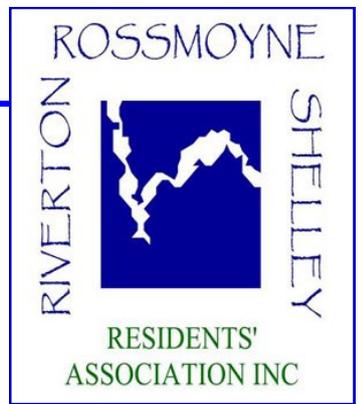


May 2017 – Newsletter



From the President's Pen

The following article on 'A History of the City of Canning' provides an interesting insight into the early years of this area.

Kind regards

Robert Morgan

Excerpt from

ALONG THE CANNING - A History of the City of Canning by F G Carden

In 1842, John Morgan, the Government Storekeeper had taken up a grant of 3,000 acres on the Canning River in the Riverton area which he described as one tenth very fair but the remainder not worth walking over.

Nothing was done with this land and also a section belonging to Henry Bull, until 1850. The area was then chosen as suitable for a Convict settlement, due to its central position and accessibility to Perth by water.

A camp called "Fig Trees" was established on the Canning River opposite Salters Point. The camp derived its name from the fig trees, which had been planted earlier by Settlers, growing on the river foreshore. The head Warder at the settlement was Henry Passmore who came out from England with his wife, nine year old son and two other Warders, in 1865 on the ship *Racehorse*. The dredge *Black Swan* had been shipped, in sections, from England for the purpose of clearing the Swan river mouth and building a harbour at Fremantle.

When the dredges initial task was completed, it was shipped up river, dredging channels and carrying out reclamation works.

It was used on the Canning River dredging a channel for timber barges and for the temporary "housing" of Convicts during the establishment of the "Fig Trees" settlement. The Convicts sent to this camp were not hardened criminals and it seems many of them were sentenced in the Colony. Most of the men were arrested for being drunk and disorderly or using abusive language.

The "Fig Trees" convicts were employed mainly in the timber industry; felling, hauling, working in saw pits and later in the saw mills.

Jarrah poles were hewn and sharpened by the Convicts and a fence erected along the channel for the floating of barges. The large barges were propelled by manpower, each convict using a pole to push the barge along beside the fence.

These barges whose main cargo was timber, were floated down the Canning River to Canning Bridge and then across the Swan River to William Street, Perth

Owners and Occupiers Register

The Local Government Act 1995 (section 4.30) provides for non-resident owners and occupiers to be enrolled for Local Government Elections. If you or family (or friends) have a business in the City why not be involved? It can only be good for our City to have an engaged business community.

Help the Environment and Our Association

If you receive these Newsletters via email, well done and thank you for keeping cost down. If you don't but have email, please consider getting the RRSRA news-letters electronically.

Your Association doesn't sell or share data and we treat your privacy with the utmost respect. It also means that you can receive Members' Up-Dates with important or interesting information on a regular basis.

Did You Know.....?

Did you know that on the banks of the Canning in Riverton at the Adenia Reserve, there is a monument marking the site of some of the earliest cremations in WA. The site is important for historic reasons because of its association with the religious rituals of the Sikh community of Western Australia.

Cremation was not generally permitted in W A until the passing of the Cremations Act 1929, and the building of crematorium facilities at Karrakatta Cemetery in the late 1930's

As a result, the site has importance as part of the broader history of cemeteries and religious practices associated with funerals in Western Australia and is closely associated with the passing of the Cremations Act 1929 and the acceptance of cremation in the wider community.

The site also has social value for the Sikh community not only for its religious associations but because it contributes to a recognition of the Sikh community as a part of the history of the state. It was officially gazetted in 1932 as Reserve 20968 for the purpose of a cemetery. The area is about to undergo development with an interpretive trail, picnic facilities and will wind in a spiral. To get there, go east along High Road and turn left into Duff Road. This terminates in Adenia Road with the monument a short walk away.



Photo C Dunsire
March 2017

Old Paint

Not talking of old masters but rather the empty paint tin! The problem of unwanted and used **household** paint tins can now be solved with a not-for profit organisation being set up to provide a safe and accessible way of disposing of waste paint. Paint may contain chemicals that can be hazardous to the environment if not disposed of correctly. Our nearest collection point is in Welshpool at Cleanaway which is located 88-92 Radium Street, Welshpool and is open Mon – Fri 9am -2pm. There are other centres at Balcatta, Baldivis, Kwinana Beach and Fremantle. For more information go to paintback.com.au or info@paintback.com.au

Winter Safety

While the glorious autumnal weather keeps us outdoors and smiling, the winter weather isn't far away and we do need the rain. Now is a good time to be winter ready so

- Check the gutters
 - Overhanging branches
 - Clear away leaf litter near downpipes, rainwater tanks etc
 - Have batteries for torches in case of power outages
 - Review your first aid kit
 - Record the SES help number in your phone **13 25 00**
- Take care!

RAIN DAMAGE TO OUR PARK

The heavy downpours of 9th and 10th of February brought 125 mm of flooding rains to Shelley. The area of Shelley Park directly opposite Corbel Street tended to provide a concentrated runoff which the area could have coped with. However, in this area, about 20 metres back from the shared footpath, there is a suburban drain outlet in the form of a “bubbler”. Naturally, the collected suburban runoff was somewhat intense and caused quite a gusher out of the bubbler.

These two water runoff sources combined to provide a huge flow of water toward the river. The topography of the area is quietly sloped and guiding enough to cause the mass of water to rush toward the river through a confined pathway and, hence, washed away a large swathe of beach. In its' pathway the gusher also took a considerable amount of topsoil and cruelly exposed the roots of the casuarinas.



The “bubbler”



Exposed roots

It would appear that two levels of repair are warranted to remedy the outcome and to prevent future recurrence. One is to cover the casuarina roots to give them a fair go and two is to address the bubbler – maybe to divide the outlet into three bubblers spread along that area.

Rossmoyne Park—situated next to the Rossmoyne Bowling Club.

There have been many shrubs and trees in flower during the summer months and now the autumn period. The mild summer days have been kind to the plants and they have done extremely well. Deep watering of the eucalyptus trees has paid off and has allowed the trees to get water down where their deep roots go resulting in all trees showing signs of new shoots growing.

This year's 2017 plantings will mainly be of a variety of flowering bushes and this will result in various shrubs flowering at different times of the year. One plant (*Beaufortia Squarrosa*) depicted in one of the photos has a red/orange flower and flowers from January through to May. Another 10 will be planted this year. Their flowers are spectacular.

During the year we have and taken small surplus plants out of the park. These were newly germinated seedlings that would not have survived under their mother trees. We have planted them in pots and taken them to our houses. With the pots resting in water and watering from the bottom is to promote root growth and the foliage follows. Their growth has been amazing as they get plenty of sun light and water. They will be returned to the park in the winter planting to more suitable locations, and their progress will be monitored.

The Rossmoyne Kindergarten has installed two Black Cockatoo breeding tubes in trees in the kindergarten area. It will be interesting to see the results.

Rossmoyne Park is well used by residents going to shops, schools and transport. They appreciate the park being tidy and an interesting place to meander. This would not be possible without the help of a faithful band of volunteers who operate early every Wednesday morning and with the support of the staff of the Canning City Council who supply equipment, manpower and plants on a regular basis.

