



Newsletter – May 2021

Friends of Lee Point (FLP) are a community-based group of Darwin residents campaigning to conserve Lee Point while encouraging the efficient use of land, infrastructure and services in Darwin. Please share your photos of Lee Point, send to: info@saveleepoint.org.au

The dry season is here and the dry season visitors have started to arrive.

Happy campers



Lee Point Caravan Park is starting to fill up as visitors pour into Darwin. This caravan park has been running for over 20 years. No pets are allowed which helps protect wildlife.



An Eastern Osprey has been camping on top of the mobile tower near the Lee Point Caravan Park for at least six months. Favourite food – fresh fish.

Save Lee Point campaign – by Friends of Lee Point and Planning Action Network (Plan)

Plan and FLP were at the Nightcliff Seabreeze Festival on 8 May and FLP at Nightcliff markets on 16 May collecting petition signatures.

The petition calls on the NT Parliament: *to place a moratorium on the current housing development proposal until the NT Planning Commission has developed a comprehensive Area Plan for the whole of Lee Point.*

As of the end of May online and paper petition signatures total over a thousand.



Stall at Sunday Nightcliff Market

Public Meeting - 27 May near Lee Point caravan park

Close to 100 people attended the public meeting and left outraged after learning that the proposed DHA development would harm nature and severely impact on their enjoyment of Lee Point.



Take Action



Lee Point March 2021

Clearing works at Lee Point is imminent. If you have concerns about the current proposal to house thousands of people at Lee Point, please take action: sign the petition (if you haven't already), send your comments to the NT News Editor and your local member. The links are:

PETITION – www.saveleepoint.org.au

NT News - fill out form at: <https://www.ntnews.com.au/news/opinion/letter-to-the-editor> or email comments with your name and address to: news@ntnews.com.au

NT Parliament - for electoral email address (click on your local members name at LHS)

Link: <https://parliament.nt.gov.au/members/by-name>

Mangroves of Lee Point

Mangroves are salt-tolerant trees that have adapted to life in harsh coastal conditions. They provide a sanctuary/nursery for marine life, and are important for protecting coastal areas.

Cannonball Mangrove (also called Cedar or Puzzle Mangrove)

The Cannonball Mangrove is a large tree found in the landward zone where it receives freshwater runoff. It has a distinctive bark which peels in strips, big peg breathing roots, and in the dry season the leaves turn yellow and fall (deciduous) forming a yellow carpet under the tree.



Cannonball Mangrove at Lee Point (*Xylocarpus granatum*)

It has tiny flowers with apple sized green fruit (don't eat!). The large irregular seeds make a sphere, hence its name "puzzle mangrove". The fruit floats but the wood being very heavy does not.



Cannonball mangrove breathing roots

Ref: David Percival conversation, plus Glenn Wightman - Mangrove Plant Identikit of the North Australia's Top End.

Lee Point and defence of Darwin

Lee Point played an important role in the defence of Darwin during World War II and Indonesian confrontation in the 1960s.

As a defence measure, 40mm Bofors (anti-aircraft autocannon) were used with earth filled drums and embankments as protection.

Source

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bofors_40_mm_gun



Military relic at Lee Point.

Gouldian Finches at Lee Point

Three young Gouldian Finches were photographed on the 30 May 2021 by Trevor Oliver near Lee Point caravan park.

Gouldian Finch were seen in this area a couple of years ago. If they are able to establish themselves here Lee Point will have seven species of finches.

In Australia, they have been classed as endangered, [click here](#)



Lee Point trivia (answers at bottom of page)

Q1. All these shorebirds can be found at Lee Point. What is the largest migratory shorebird?

A. Whimbrel B. Beach Stone Curlew C. Far Eastern Curlew D. Great Knot

Q2. The Bar Tailed Godwit visits Lee Point, how far can it fly non-stop?

A. 1000km B. 4000km C. 8000km D. 12000km

Planning for Lee Point (Part 4) – zoning plans and Commission

Part 3 - discussed zoning and finished with the NT Planning Commission.

The [NT Planning Commission](#) (Commission) consults with the community to develop strategic plans and policies for inclusion in the [NT Planning Scheme](#) (NTPS) and advises on significant development proposals. It does this in accordance with the latest version of the [NT Planning Act 1999](#). The Act takes precedence over the NTPS.

The NTPS contains strategic land use plans (zoning plans). An abridged summary of Darwin strategic land use plans is:

- Darwin Regional Land Use Plan (2015)
- Greater Darwin (9) Area Plans: refer to [Darwin and Palmerston Subregion](#)

The Commission (established late 2012) has been involved in the development of the 2015 Darwin Regional Area Plan and all Area Plans (since 2013) except the 2015 Lee Point Area Plan. The Lee Point Area Plan is focussed on the disused defence land at Lee Point, not on the whole of Lee Point.

Next time we take a look at the Lee Point Area Plan.

Until next time, enjoy the dry season.

Answer Q1 – C the Far Eastern Curlew is the world's largest migratory shorebird. The Beach Stone Curlew is the world's heaviest shorebird but does not migrate.

Answer Q2 – D the Bar Tailed Godwit has the world record for the longest non-stop flight of a migratory shorebird. In September 2020 it flew non-stop from Alaska to New Zealand in 11 days.