



Newsletter – August 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. We acknowledge that the Larrakia are the traditional owners of Lee Point and the land and surrounding sea require protection, management and respect from all.

Migratory shorebirds – Welcome back

Our migratory shorebirds started arriving last week from the arctic circle ie. Siberia. They looked skinny after their long migration. Up to 50 Far Eastern Curlews and thousands of Great Knots call Lee Point home for most of the year – both are critically endangered.



Far Eastern Curlews at Lee Point last week showing their superb flight feathers. Photo by GLA



Great Knot at Lee Point last week photo by Harn Sheng Khor.



Great Knots at Lee Point – photo from Wikipedia

FRIENDS OF LEE POINT

Election of City of Darwin Aldermen 2021

It was good to see that two thirds of the election candidates for City of Darwin supported the Save Lee Point petition. The petition calls on the NT Parliament to:

Place a moratorium on the current development proposal for Lee Point until the NT Planning Commission has developed a comprehensive Area Plan for the whole of Lee Point.

The new Aldermen have yet to be signed in. However, there is talk that a motion will be discussed involving sending a letter from council to NT Government requesting that the Lee Point land clearing works be halted until a proper urban planning study is undertaken.



Lee Point March 2021

City of Darwin launched their Greening Darwin Strategy this year and Lee Point is in it:

<https://www.darwin.nt.gov.au/council/about-council/publications-and-forms/greening-darwin-strategy>

One of the actions from the strategy is to:

Support community activities that enhance and protect the urban forest and biodiversity.

Planning for Lee Point refer www.saveleepoint.org.au explains why we need a proper plan for Lee Point before any any significant development happens.

Land clearing starts at Lee Point

Contractors working for DHA started removing cycads on the 5 August that prompted a series of (5) public meetings/events (see facebook) from concerned Darwin residents.



Public meeting held in an area (north of Muirhead) due to be cleared – 10 Aug 2021 (GLA)

The Planning Minister (Eva Lawler) has the power to stop the land clearing works at Lee Point, read more on FAQ at www.saveleepoint.org.au

FRIENDS OF LEE POINT

Traffic congestion from Lee Point

The traffic heading south along Lee Point Road causes queuing at the Vanderlin/Lee Point roundabout every work day morning along Vanderlin Drive. Over 40 people gathered with signs on Vanderlin Drive on Monday 23 August to raise public awareness on the Lee Point development and future traffic congestion problems. Lots of people honked their support.



Gathering along Vanderline Drive – 7.15am Monday 23 August (GLA)



Gathering along Vanderline Drive – 7.45am Monday 23 August (IDR)

As it turned out most motorists were late for work and the traffic queuing didn't really start until after 7.40am, after which it extended many hundreds of metres.

Flyers were handed to people caught in the traffic queues – the motorists reading the flyers looked concerned as they realised traffic queuing could get a lot worse if thousands of people are housed at Lee Point.

FRIENDS OF LEE POINT

Lee Point trivia (answer at bottom of page)

Q1. About 25 species of migratory shorebirds regularly arrive in Australia each year. How many migratory shorebird species arrive at Lee Point each year?

- A. 5 B. 10 C. 20 D. 25

Northern Spring

In the Top End, a slight rise in temperature from early Aug to Oct triggers many plants to flower and produce seeds in time for the wet season rains. This time of year, has been described as a “*northern spring*”.

Blue Paperbark (*Melaleuca dealbata*)

The Blue Paperbark flowers in the northern spring and gets its name from its bluish grey young leaves. The young leaves can be like velvet to touch. Flowers Aug-Nov, Fruits Oct-Dec. Aboriginal uses – Strong wood that never rots.

Reference - Top End Native Plants – John Brock.



Blue Paperbark in Lee Point coastal area (IDR) with Little Friarbird feasting on its flowers (GLA).

Until next time, enjoy the “northern spring”

Answer Q1 - C. Lee Point is visited by 80% of migratory shorebird species that arrive in Australia.