

Newsletter – May 2022

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.

Greetings Friends,

This month; the **Lee Point Art Exhibition** opened, **Federal candidates** were asked where they stood on Lee Point, and **Gouldian Finches** moved into Lee Point.

Lee Point Art Exhibition – “What you like about Lee Point”

The exhibition was officially opened by Graeme Sawyer and Amye Un in front of 60 people 11am Saturday 7 May at Casuarina Library. View [award ceremony](#) and [prize winners](#) *



The exhibition is open at Casuarina Library until Monday 6 June 2022 or view [art online](#)

People’s Choice Award – voting closes 11 June

[Vote](#) for your favourite artworks from the exhibition and other entries.

* Live links on last page or use web version: <https://saveleepoint.org.au/newsletter-may-2022/>

FRIENDS OF LEE POINT

Federal Election

The Australian Government wholly owns the developer, Defence Housing Australia (DHA), and the land that is planned to be bulldozed at Lee Point.



Most NT candidates in the recent federal election supported a pause in the Lee Point development and many wanted an independent assessment of its public benefit, read their responses for [Senate](#) and [Solomon](#)

The question on who benefits from the (taxpayer funded) Lee Point development remains unanswered..... [Read more.](#)

Lee Point Development – NT Government Approval Status

| NT Govt Approvals (as of 26 May 2022) | Stage 1 North of Muirhead (97 lots) | Stage 2 North of Lyons | Stage 3-5 North of Lyons | Stage 6-7 North of Muirhead | Stage 8 North of Lyons |
|---------------------------------------|---|------------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Planning | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Construction | Yes | No* | No | No | No |

*To date, DHA has not lodged an application with the NT Government for Stage 2 construction.

Future Plan to protect Casuarina Coastal Reserve

Friends of Casuarina Coastal Reserve held a public meeting on 14 May to discuss a plan to help protect the natural value of Casuarina Coastal Reserve (CCR). About 40 people attended. Read some of the [ideas for action](#) (refer 18 May post).

Lee Point Trivia

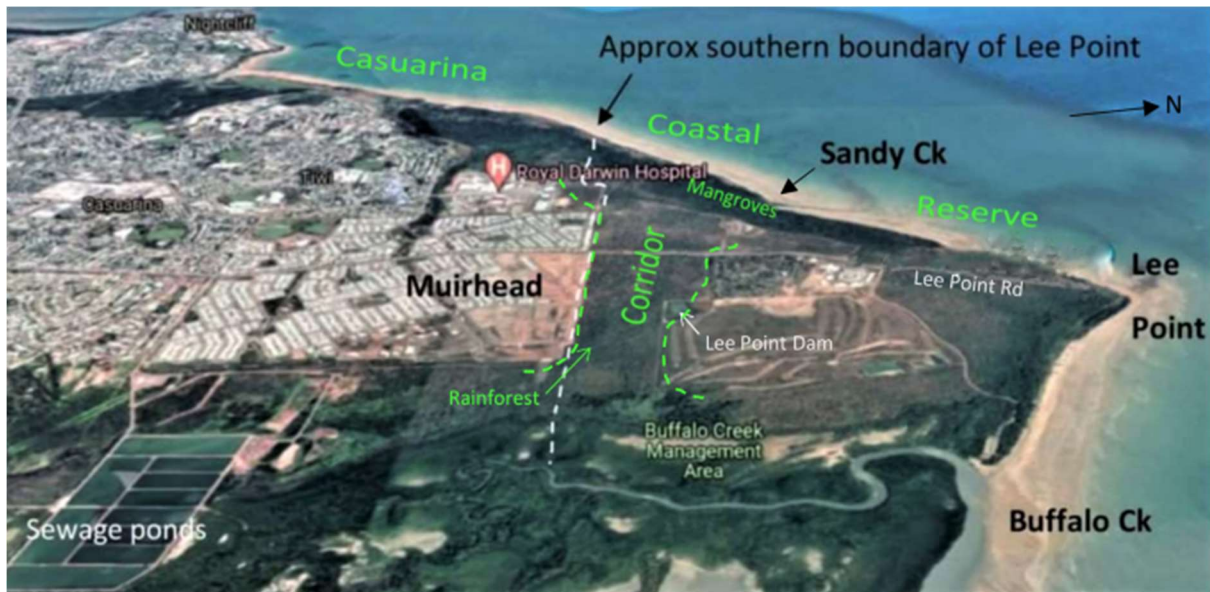
Lee Point contains just over half of Casuarina Coastal Reserve (CCR).

Q1. Total visits to NT Government managed parks in the NT were 2.35M. How many visits (not people) to CCR were there in 2020? Answers at the end.

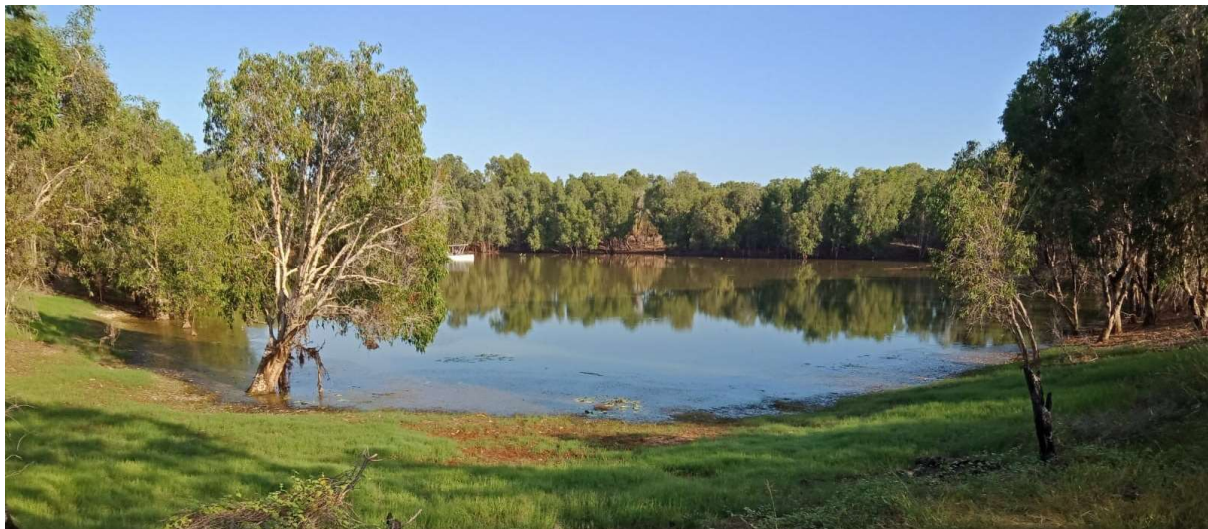
- A. under 0.5M B. 0.8M C. 1.0M D. 1.2M (over half)

FRIENDS OF LEE POINT

Lee Point Dam



Lee Point Peninsula has a high biodiversity and attracts 80% of the bird species found in Kakadu. The “**Corridor**” (called Biodiversity Corridor by City of Darwin) runs from Buffalo Ck to Sandy Ck and includes most of the (8) habitats found in the Top End.



Lee Point Dam in May 2022



Water lillies (*Nymphaoides indica*) flower on the Lee Point Dam from April to July.

FRIENDS OF LEE POINT

Gouldian Finches like Lee Point

Hundreds of people, including visitors from interstate, have been seeing rare Gouldian Finches at Lee Point and CCR. Several Australian newspapers published articles on these sightings. Megan Moody provided these recent [videos/photos from Lee Point](#), some show courting and mating behaviour of these beautiful finches.

The Corridor (see previous map) is one location where they have been regularly seen. A few juvenile Gouldian Finches were recorded in the Corridor last May. However, this year they are in much greater numbers and include adults. The largest number recorded (on eBird) in the Corridor was 68, with some recorded on most days.



An adult male Gouldian Finch at Lee Point. Photo by Gavan Keane, May 2022



Juvenile Gouldian Finch near Lee Point Dam.
Photo by Trevor Oliver, May 2021



Nesting in tree hollow – Katherine Region.
Photo by Peter Brown.

Gouldian Finches are endangered ... [read more](#)

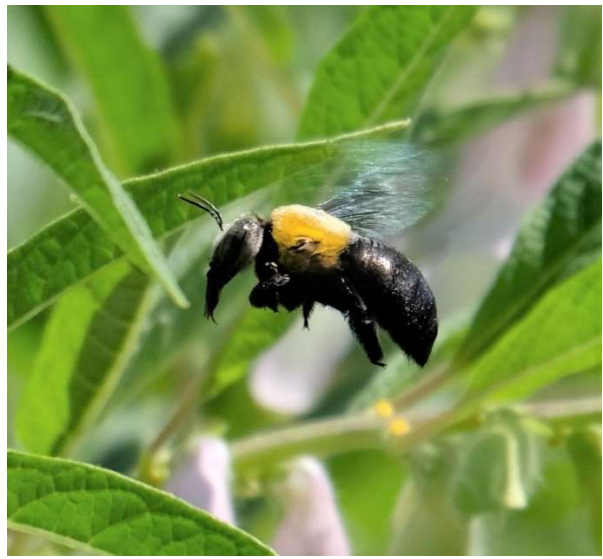
FRIENDS OF LEE POINT

Freshwater Habitat – Frogsmouth Waterlilies (*Philydrum lanuginosum*)

Frogsmouth Waterlilies appear at the end of the wet season when the freshwater streams and ponds have started to dry up.



Frogsmouth Waterlilies (about to flower) in a stream bed in the Lee Point Corridor.



The flowers look like open mouths hence their common name Frogsmouth Waterlilies, another common name is Woolly Waterlilies. Carpenter Bees (Australia's largest native bee) are attracted to the many flowers which open successively on a spike.

FRIENDS OF LEE POINT

Lee Point Art Competition – School Competition



Dripstone Middle School won first prize in the 14 to under 19 year category.... view [prize winners](#)

People's Choice Award – voting closes 11 June

Vote for your favourite artworks from the competition and other entries.

Total value of prizes is \$600.

Until next time, enjoy the Dry Season at Lee Point

Answer Q1. D - over 1.2M visits - based on NT Government's [Park Visitor Data](#)

Links used in newsletter:

1. **award ceremony:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a7knnS215nY>
2. **prize winners:** <https://saveleepoint.org.au/lee-point-art-competition-prize-winners/>
3. **art online :** <https://saveleepoint.org.au/lee-point-art-competition-entries/>
4. **Vote :** <https://saveleepoint.org.au/lee-point-art-competition-entries/>
5. **Senate:** <https://saveleepoint.org.au/nt-senate-candidate-on-lee-point-development/>
6. **Solomon:** <https://saveleepoint.org.au/solomon-candidate-survey-on-lee-point-development/>
7. Unanswered questions **Read more:** <https://saveleepoint.org.au/lee-point-australian-government-dha-development/>
8. **ideas for action:** <https://www.facebook.com/FriendsOfCasuarinaCoastalReserve/>
9. **Gouldian Finches in Darwin:** [Endangered native Gouldian Finches rebound in Darwin \(thenewdaily.com.au\)](https://thenewdaily.com.au)
10. **videos/photos from Lee Point:**
<https://photos.google.com/share/AF1QipMfSr2mnFki4TeoptF3lrQReJ4EE6NGUTuhdVfiWC4Z1fJLrtzPlrQtghCSzHLXgg?key=Nkd4dXFBY1JoeVlyWDB4N0ZocFlBem91SExCZmh3>
11. Endangered ... **read more:** <https://www.australianwildlife.org/wildlife/gouldian-finch/>
12. **Park Visitor Data:** <https://depws.nt.gov.au/parks-and-wildlife-commission/parks-and-wildlife-statistics-and-research/park-visitor-data>