

Newsletter – July 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.

Our migratory shorebirds will start heading home to Darwin soon from the arctic circle ie. Siberia. Expected time of arrival at Lee Point is from late August onwards.

New Shorebird Sculptures at Lee Point – 10am Saturday 24 July 2021

About 60 people attended the launch of the new Shorebird Sculptures at Lee Point.

The sculptures were funded thru MP Luke Gosling's office, organised by Planning Action Network (Nick Kirlew) with Birdlife Top End (Dr Amanda Lilleyman), Larrakia artists (Jason Lee and Min Cole) plus others.



Mangrove walk at Lee Point – 8.20am Saturday 24 July 2021

Over 20 people enjoyed the 1.5 hour morning mangrove walk run by FLP before the shorebird launch (above).

We saw an interesting variety of mangroves and monsoon plants plus (47) birds refer: <https://ebird.org/checklist/S92206150>

Thank you for the donations made to the Save Lee Point campaign – we really appreciate your support.



FRIENDS OF LEE POINT

Elections for City of Darwin

Voting commences 16 August for Local Government ie. City of Darwin. Timetable is at:

<https://ntec.nt.gov.au/elections/2021-local-government-elections/timetable>



Lee Point March 2021

We encourage you to ask your local government candidates if they support the FLP petition which 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.

This paper **Planning for Lee Point** explains why the NT Planning Commission should develop a comprehensive Area Plan for the whole of Lee Point before any significant development happens: <https://saveleepoint.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/2021-06-30-Planning-for-Lee-Point-web-version.pdf> or go to Save Lee Point homepage and click on Planning for Lee Point.

Community concerns over the Lee Point housing development

Many people are concerned about the proposed housing development at Lee Point, see the (39) **Letters to the Editor – NT News** on www.saveleepoint.org.au homepage.

Land is now available to purchase off-the-plan for the first stage. This means putting a deposit down with the balance to be paid on the registration of titles (naming of streets etc), anticipated in December 2021. <https://www.leepointdarwin.com.au/now-selling/>

If an off-the-plan housing development does not proceed the deposits are returned.

Birds of Lee Point

Gouldian Finches were photographed north of Muirhead in Aug 2019 and May 2021. The eBird hot spot link for this area is: <https://ebird.org/hotspot/L9853688>

Some birds such as the Rainbow Bee-eater and Pardalote nest in earth burrows.



Striated Pardalotes dig burrows in the early dry when the digging is easy – photo Peter Brown.

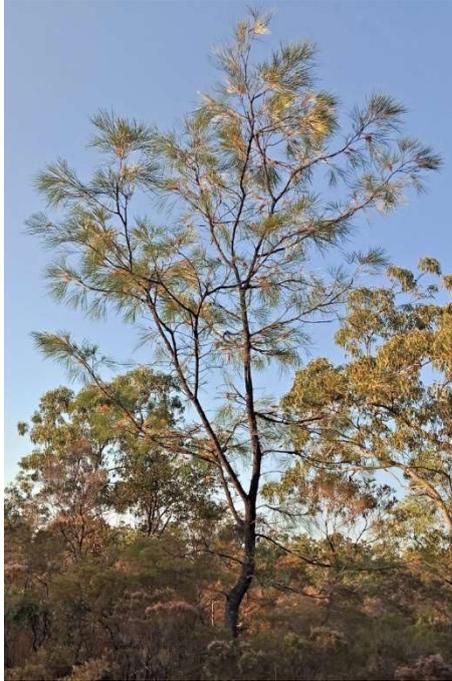


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Plants of Lee Point

Many plants flower and fruit during the top end dry season (April – Nov).

Fern-leaved Grevillea (*Grevillea pteridifolia*)



Fern-leaved Grevillea and Bar-breasted Honeyeater - Peter Brown

This grevillea is an important source of nectar for birds and bees. It mainly flowers during May – September. Aboriginal uses: the nectar can be sucked from flowers or shaken in water and drunk.

Source: John Brock - Top End Native Plants.

Red-flowering Kurrajong (*Brachychiton megaphyllus*)



This small tree (or large scrub) at Lee Point is endemic to Australia's Top End.

Leaves fall in the dry season (June to October) when bright-red flowers burst from bare branches. These are followed by yellow-brown woody, hair-covered seedpods.

Aboriginal uses: the seeds can be cooked and eaten.
Source: John Brock - Top End Native Plants



The Red-flowering Kurrajong is the official emblem of the City of Darwin.

This plant has been used in tropical gardens.
<https://www.abc.net.au/gardening/factsheets/plant-profile:-red-flowering-kurrajong/12348530>

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Flatback sea turtle (*Natator depressus*)

The Australian Flatback sea turtle nests along the Lee Point beaches each dry season. Like all (6 species) sea turtles in Australia they are protected.

One of the groups helping to protect Flatback sea turtles at Lee Point are the Larrakia rangers, more on their work: <http://larrakia.com/services/larrakia-rangers/>



Flatback sea turtle hatchling - photo from Wikipedia.

Lee Point trivia (answer at bottom of page)

Q1. The Black-footed Tree Rat is nocturnal and likes to live in the hollows of large trees at Lee Point. It is one of Australia's largest rodents. What do they mainly eat?

A. Flowers & fungi B. Hard fruits & seeds C. Grasses & shoots D. Insects & small creatures

Planning for Lee Point (Part 6) – *Part 5 discussed the Lee Point Area Plan.*

Much has changed since the Lee Point Area Plan was approved in 2015 and a new plan needs to be developed for Lee Point. The Planning for Lee Point paper (refer homepage www.saveleepoint.org.au) raises many questions about the 2015 Lee Point Area Plan.

There is no environmental benefit from bulldozing a significant portion of Lee Point, so there needs to be a social or economic benefit for the taxpayer compared to other locations ie. Northcrest (Berrimah) and locations near the Stuart Highway. The land to be developed at Lee Point land is wholly owned by the Australian Government (the taxpayer) as is the developer (DHA). This means it's your Lee Point.

One question you should ask your MP, MLA or aspiring Local Government candidates is:

If you support the current proposed development at Lee Point, why are you supporting it?

The person being asked needs to explain why it will be good for Greater Darwin in the long term compared to having the development at other locations. Just saying it's part of a previous agreement, deal etc is not an appropriate response.

Until next time, enjoy the Darwin Festival 5-22 Aug

Answer Q1 - B. Hard fruits and seeds. A list of the plants they favour is at;

<https://landforwildlifetopend.files.wordpress.com/2016/11/the-black-footed-tree-rat-handout.pdf>

The easiest place to see a Black-footed Tree Rat is at the Territory Wildlife Park – Nocturnal House. They are endangered in Australia with an estimated 30,000 remaining in the wild.