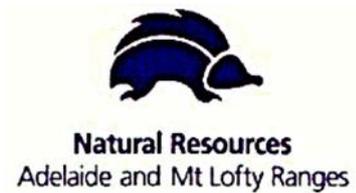


Almanda Report 2020



A Friends of Scott Creek Conservation Park Project



The Friends of Scott Creek Conservation Park

Almanda Project

To restore threatened wetlands in Scott Creek Conservation Park by rehabilitating upland swamps, bogs, spring-fed gullies and seasonal creeklines.



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Introduction

Scott Creek Conservation Park (the Park) is a significant conservation area in the Mount Lofty Ranges. The Park is home to many threatened species and is an important link in the native vegetation corridors of the hills. The Park was once part of a major travelling route for the Peramangk Peoples¹.

This report is the sixth annual report on the Almanda Project². The Almanda Project is a Friends of Scott Creek Conservation Park (FoSCCP or the Friends group) project that commenced in July 2014 with a ten year aim of restoring rare and beautiful native habitat along eight riparian areas (wetland areas along watercourses) within the Park. The Almanda Project is named after the Almanda Swamp and Creek system in the centre of the Park, where historic ruins of an old silver mine, established in 1868, can still be seen today.

The Almanda Report 2020 begins with the President's Report by Peter Watton summarising achievements in 2019-20, from grants and fund-raising, to on-ground volunteer and contractor work. The report then provides information on the work done by both volunteers and contractors in each of the major creek systems within the Park.

This report is a tribute to all those people who are part of restoring the natural diversity in this exceptional part of South Australia.

by Anna Dutkiewicz



Above: The view east across the Park towards Currawong Ridge Track and further to Mount Bold Road in the distance on a winter's morning.

¹ https://www.parks.sa.gov.au/find-a-park/Browse_by_region/Adelaide_Hills/scott-creek-conservation-park

² The Almanda Project is described in more detail in the *Almanda Report 2015* written by Tom Hands and John Wamsley available at <http://www.johnwamsley.com/Books.html>

President's Report

ALMANDA PROJECT – PROGRESS REPORT – June 2020

The past twelve months has seen many challenges that affected us all in some way. There were the wildfires that raged across many parts of Australia, followed almost immediately by the COVID-19 pandemic, which has perhaps changed the way we all live forever. As Government restrictions were put in place, there was an initial lock-down, requiring us all to remain at home except for essential travel for food shopping, medical attention and the like. Working from home was an option taken up by many, while other businesses were forced to close down.

This meant that the Friends group was also required to cease all organised activities for three months due to COVID-19. As restrictions on travel were relaxed we found many more people had discovered Scott Creek Conservation Park (SCCP or the Park) as they sought new places to visit and enjoy nature.

Fortunately, our bushcare contractors were able to continue to work throughout this time, although they needed to comply with new COVID-19 protocols. This meant that time-sensitive work was still able to be completed on time.

In this year's Almanda Report, I have attempted to provide a more simplified and concise format. While ensuring all the essential information is still detailed, I hope to make it easier to find those details.

Being the final year of the three year Work Plan, funded under the Natural Resources Adelaide and Mount Lofty Ranges (NR AMLR) Land Management Program, the security of funding we have enjoyed for the past three years has now ended. This coincides with the replacement of the NRM Boards with the new Green Adelaide and Landscape SA Boards, which took place on 30th June this year.

Future funding for SCCP, along with other parks and areas protected under the National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972, appears to rely heavily on having to apply for grants through National Parks and Wildlife Service South Australia (NPWSSA) or the new Grassroots Grants program. In our case, we may be able to apply for these Grassroots Grants from either Green Adelaide or the Hills and Fleurieu Landscape Board, as the boundary between these two regions runs through the middle of the Park, following local council boundaries.



Above: The 2019 Almanda Open Day stand.

Unfortunately, it will be necessary to commit a considerable amount of our valuable volunteer effort into these grant applications, which are expected to be highly competitive. Instead, this time and effort would be much better spent restoring the Park and protecting its wildlife habitat, and a reliable and on-going budget should instead be made available for additional pest and weed management issues in parks and to support volunteer efforts.

Fundraising and Publicity

As mentioned above, this was the final year of the three year Work Plan, funded under the Natural Resources Adelaide and Mount Lofty Ranges (NR AMLR) Land Management Program. Funding included \$20,000 through Sustainable Landscapes, managed by District Officer Mark Fagan, and \$5,000 funding through the Volunteer Support Program, managed by Volunteer Support Officer Kat Hill. We continued to receive excellent support from both Mark and Kat during the year, and are grateful for the support of all other NRM and DEW staff.



Above: Jenny shows a visiting walker one of the new corflute signs.

Left: As the signs look installed on gate 3.

In addition to the Work Plan, Mark also arranged for \$3,000 funding through a separate asparagus weeds budget to have Bridal Creeper sprayed at the top of Cave Creek around gate 12 and for some other woody weed control in the Park. Kat funded the production of five temporary corflute signs, to place at various access points to the Park where they can assist visitors to better appreciate the Park and find their way around. There was an additional \$2,000 provided by NR AMLR for work arranged by Jerry Smith, Threatened Flora Ecologist, to help protect threatened orchid populations in the Park.

We were successful in our only grant application for the financial year, although some items to promote the Park and the work of the Friends group were ineligible, so a lesser amount was approved for:

- NR AMLR 2019-20 Community Environment Grant for \$7,598 (ex-GST) – \$6,000 for on-ground contractor work, \$199 for a WEA Publisher course to assist with the production of this report and our newsletter, Bandicoot Tails, \$359 for the hire of a portable toilet for our Almanda Open Day, plus \$440 towards the revision of our popular bird brochure and \$600 for embroidered FoSCCP logos for our volunteers to sew onto items of clothing.

We received the second very generous \$10,000 donation from the Carthew and Fisher families, through the Carthew Foundation. This was committed to when the first donation was made last year, and was once again made tax deductible by utilising the Fund Landcare platform of Landcare Australia.

Some of the work paid for this financial year was carried over from funding received during the previous year, including from the NR AMLR 2018-19 Community Environment Grant, the DEW on-park Volunteer Support Grant and from the anonymous second generous donation made by one of our members last year.

See details of the funded work under the creek system headings later in this report.

The Contractors

While COVID-19 restrictions impacted on all our lives, and Government enforced restrictions were implemented during a period of lockdown when non-essential travel was not allowed, contractor work was able to proceed with little obvious change. This is largely because of the type of work, taking place outdoors and not usually in close proximity to others.

We were able to optimise the timing for the majority of the work this year, due to the greater lead-in time with funding availability. Blackberry, in particular, was able to be treated when still actively growing and we were able to avoid the time at the end of the season, when it comes under stress from drought and insect attack. Watsonia and Bridal Creeper, other weeds that have distinct seasons for treatment, were also treated at the optimal times.

Unfortunately, while the Cape Tulip spraying in Almanda Valley in late July provided good results, the areas wiped with the carpeted drum of the Rotowiper[®], an applicator towed behind a quad bike, did not seem to have reduced the Cape Tulip at all. While the reason for this is unknown, there was evidence of frost damage prior to treatment, but even with frost damage the spraying proved effective. We will continue managing the Cape Tulip by spraying in the future.



Above: Mark Fagan shows Gracilis Creek to Sam and Alisha from TFL Works.

The majority of work was undertaken by our regular contractors, and I would like to pass on my thanks to the contractor principals and their staff, for the significant contributions to the restoration of the Park. Thanks to Kieran Brewer (South Australian Indigenous Flora), Tony Paterson (Better Bushland), Russell Troon (Environmental Contracting Services), Samantha Jones (Trees For Life Works) and Andrew Fairney (Seeding Natives).

While not contractors, I would also like to thank the Weed Management Officers from DEW for the work they have contributed to managing the main fire responsive weeds in the area of the Bushrat Creek prescribed burn in November 2016.

Below left: Sophie talks to Tony in The Panhandle about Erica and Sollya control.



Below Right: Mark shows Russell the Panhandle Blackberry infestation.



Our Volunteers

Once again we have gained some new regular members in our Hands On Team this year, enabling us to continue to cover the broad areas of the 700+ hectares of the Park in our regular three scheduled bushcare activities each month. A couple of our long-term volunteers have had to give up the rigours of traipsing around the Park doing bushcare, so the introduction of new volunteers is critical to our sustainability as an active Friends group. As a result we have been able to undertake significant bushcare across all ten creek systems in the Park. Further details can be found under the different creek system headings later in this report.

There have been the usual extra visits to the Park, to undertake specific spraying and other weed control. These activities are usually done separately to the main scheduled bushcare activities, to attend to smaller patches of weeds or do some follow-up spraying of Blackberry or bulb weeds like Bridal Creeper and Watsonia. Thanks to Jenny Dawes and Glenn Giles for assisting me with these.

The bush gardening group working in the Almanda Creek showcase site has increased to three mornings most weeks, together with the first Saturday of the month. Under the guidance of John Wamsley, and with a couple of new regular attendees added after last year's Almanda Open Day, they have continued working around the corner into Scott Creek in the Mackereth Cottage block. This land has now been transferred from SA Water and is just awaiting re-dedication under the National Parks and Wildlife Act. I have added a special section about the work being done in the Almanda Project showcase site under the "Report on Progress by Creek System", as it covers work in two adjoining creek systems.

Thanks to Jenny for once again compiling our volunteer hours and passing them along to DEW. There was a total 4,151 FoSCCP volunteer hours contributed for the year, which adds up to the equivalent of \$181,149.64 using the rate of \$43.64 per hour that DEW value these at. This is a significant increase on the 2,951 hours last year, mainly due to additional hours put in by the group working on the Almanda Project showcase site.

A special thanks to our committee members and those who keep the group running – in particular Jim as Vice President, Correspondence Secretary and Bird Banding Coordinator, Jenny as Administration Officer, Bushcare Coordinator, Chair of our meetings and general go to person for anything extra that goes on in and around the

Park, Donella as Treasurer and Minute Secretary, Lorraine as Membership Officer and Rick for managing the Website and continuing to respond to requests for updates to mapping of the Park.



Left: Some of our bushcarers having a break for morning tea along Twisted Chimney Track.

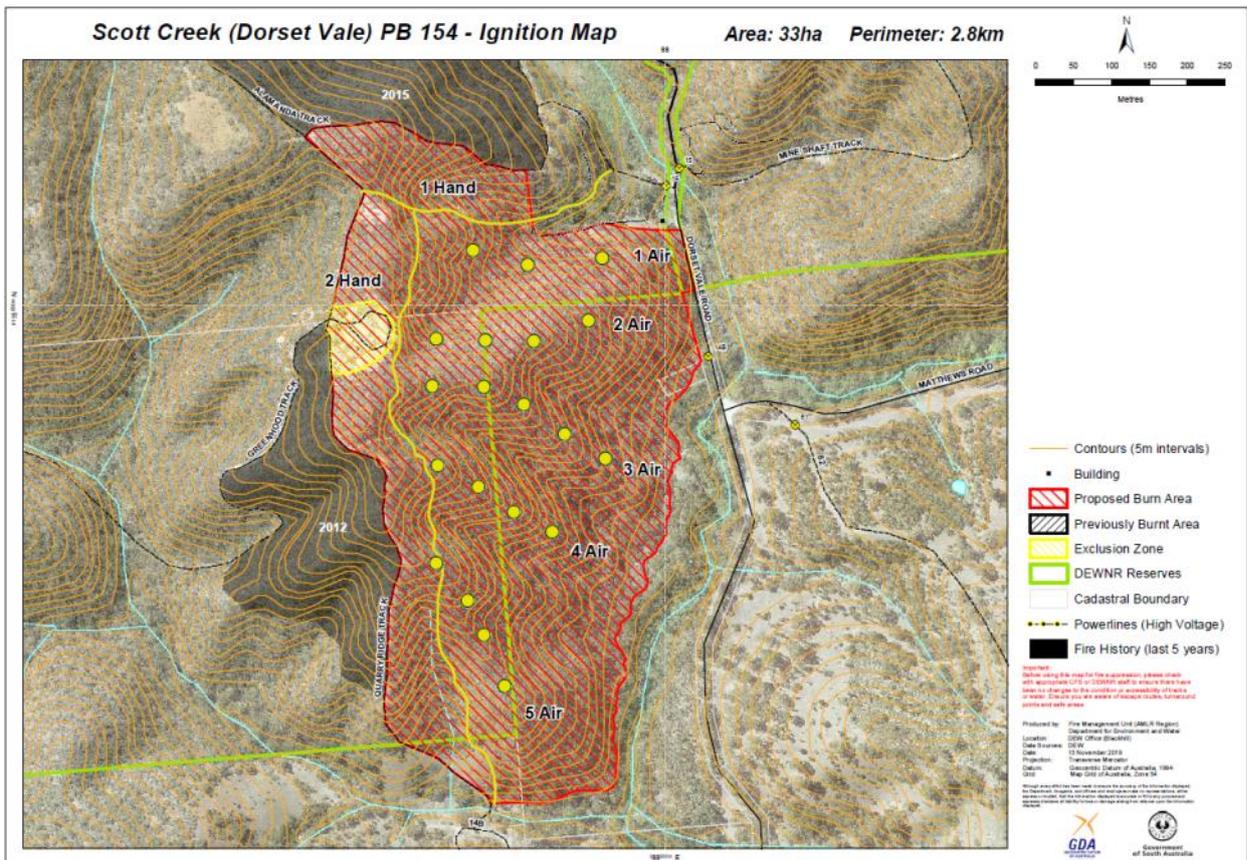
Prescribed Burning

The much delayed prescribed burn in the area of the Park behind the Almanda Mine car park on Dorset Vale Road took place in November 2019. Covering the area south of Almanda Track and extending further into SA Water land, after another couple of false starts due to wet weather, it ended up commencing Sunday 13th around mid-afternoon.

I took up an invitation to see how the burn is organised and run, and have included a series of photos below to share this. Thanks to all the staff involved, from the planning and surveying stage, to the on-ground and airborne staff on the day, and those who came back to ensure it didn't get away during the catastrophic fire danger day that followed three days later.

The previously arranged prescribed burns on three adjoining neighbours north of the Park also took place this year.

The next burn scheduled for the Park in Cave Creek and Blue Gum Flats, south of Shingleback Track, is now intended to be held in autumn 2021.



Above: The ignition map for the prescribed burn that took place near the Almanda Mine on Dorset Vale Road.

Right: Hoses lined up along a control line prior to starting the burn.

Following two pages: A sequence of photos taken over a period of three hours from the beginning of the burn.



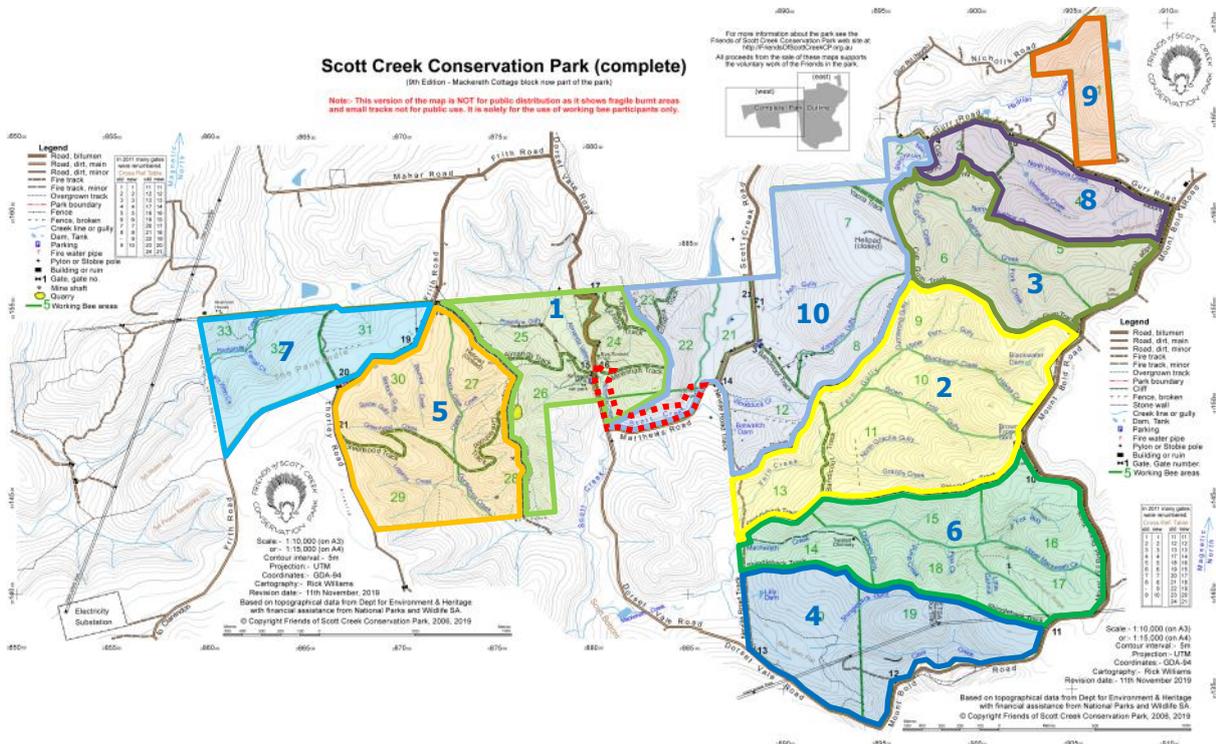




The Almada Project 2019-2020

REPORT ON PROGRESS BY CREEK SYSTEM

This section of the Almada Report summarises the on-ground vegetation management undertaken across SCCP, incorporating work by volunteers, contractors and the DEW fire management unit. The Almada Project formally incorporates all restoration work within the Park, which recognises that all work in the Park contributes to the original objectives of the project — to restore the eight headwater creek systems and threats to flora and fauna species within them.



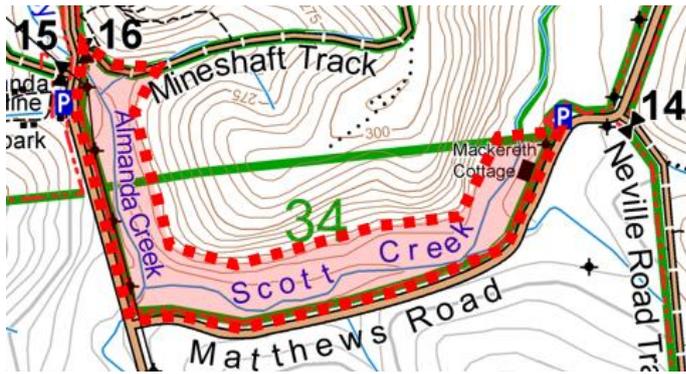
Map of Scott Creek Conservation Park showing the major creek systems and the Almada Project showcase site in the red dashed line.

This reporting period, contractors undertook work in nine creek systems within the Park, while volunteers again spread their follow-up weed management throughout all major parts of the Park and all ten creek systems. The DEW fire management unit concentrated its work in the Bushrat Creek System.



Above left: Perched swamp in Bushrat Ck. **Above right:** Heath in Number 1 Block.

Almanda Project showcase site



As indicated earlier in the President's Report, the work done in the Almanda Project showcase site this year is reported on separately, as it extends across two adjoining creek systems.

Working at this fine scale in a smaller area, the group has come up with some local names for specific parts of the area, including for the stretch of Scott Creek next

to the flat area on the corner of Dorset Vale Road and Matthews Road, being called "Eulamprus Reach" and flat area is being called "Quoyii Flat". These names are in honour of the Eastern Water Skink, *Eulamprus Quoyii*, which is frequently seen during bush gardening here.

Following is John's description of the Almanda Creek area the group is restoring.

Almanda Creek restoration by John Wamsley

Almanda Creek is about 300 metres long flowing in a north to south direction parallel with and next to Dorset Vale Road. Between Dorset Vale Road and the western bank of Almanda Creek is a level area of about half an acre we are restoring to 'Grassy Woodland' that we call the 'Almanda Grasslands'. The western bank of Almanda Creek, we call the 'West Bank'. Between the West Bank and Almanda Creek there is a wallaby track that we call the 'Western Track'. Between Almanda Creek and the eastern bank of Almanda Creek there is a wallaby track that we call the 'Lower Eastern Track'. Along the eastern bank at about the same altitude as Dorset Vale Road is a wallaby track that we call the 'Upper Eastern Track'. The area we are restoring is the section between Dorset Vale Road and a few metres east of the Upper Eastern Track. We loosely call this area 'Almanda Creek'.

At the northern end of Almanda Creek is a track called 'Mineshaft Track'. As we go south and before we get to Almanda Creek, there is a small piece of creek flat we call 'The Nursery'. This is because it is the area we first cleared the blackberries from and we used it to temporarily "store" the rare plants that were disappearing from Fox Bog and other wetlands in the Park, which were drying out because of Climate Change. The northern half of Almanda Creek has always been within the Park, while the southern half of Almanda Creek was part of SA Water and is in the process of being transferred to the Park. This has meant that these two halves of Almanda Creek have had different management historically and are therefore quite different.

While the northern half of Almanda Creek was totally cleared in the past, the southern half was not. Although it is unusual for trees to grow in water, some trees do. For example, mangrove trees grow in salt water along our coast. The tree that evolved to grow in water in the Adelaide Hills was the Silky Blue Tea Tree. As they grew in a creek, they blocked the creek. This resulted in the creek becoming wider and the tea trees spreading out and further blocking the creek. The final result was that instead of the creek being a metre wide it ended up ten or twenty metres wide. This is what happened in the southern half of Almanda Creek. These ancient Silky Blue Tea Trees remain today.

Quoyii Flat



9th February 2020



20th February 2020



28th March 2020



22nd April 2020



6th May 2020



14th June 2020



Above left: The Buttercup garden after primary clearance of Montpellier Broom.



Above right: Early work cleared away Blackberry in the Secret Garden, under the ancient Silky Tea-tree (*Leptospermum lanigerum*).



Above left: One of the smaller Weeping Willows drilled and filled early 2020, with an Eastern Water Skink watching from nearby.



Above right: Eastern Water Skink (*Eulamprus Quoyii*), after which Eulamprus Reach and Quoyii Flat were named.



Above left: After slashing the pasture grasses, areas were cleared to sow Golden Wattle (*Acacia pycnantha*) seeds.



Above right: One of the Golden Wattle seeds that germinated in Quoyii Flat.

After removing the blackberries from under these ancient trees, we are left with a unique area. We call this area the 'Hidden Garden' after the rare plant *Viola cleistogamoides*. This name comes from cleistogamy, the type of automatic self-pollination of certain plants that can propagate by using non-opening, self-pollinating flowers. Especially well known in peanuts, peas, and pansy, this behaviour is most widespread in the grass family. Instead of showing off its flower to the world like other violets, it hides its flowers in its foliage and hence its common name the 'Hidden Violet'. If you drive along Dorset Vale Road you couldn't imagine that hidden under the foliage of the ancient Silky Blue Tea Trees is the incredible garden of rare and endangered plants. One of the rare plants thriving there is the Hidden Violet.

East of the Hidden Garden is an area which was farmed in the past. It was covered in broom and blackberries but now it contains an amazing array of rare plants, but the most noticeable plant is the Native Buttercup. In spring it is a carpet of bright yellow flowers. We call this area the 'Buttercup Garden'.

To the south of the Buttercup Garden is where the original Matthews Road crossed Almanda Creek, ran along the northern side of Scott Creek, crossed Scott Creek near Mackereth Cottage, connected with Neville Road and hence through to Dorset Vale.

The area we are restoring is between Mineshaft Track and Scott Creek. It is about 300 metres by 50 metres (1.5 hectares). So, when we talk about the plants of Almanda Creek, this is the area we are talking about.

Around the corner is the flat area where Mackereth Lane leads through to Mackereth Cottage. The flat is about one hectare and since it is on the southern side of a fairly steep hill, it doesn't receive much sunlight – about none through winter. This means it is a paradise for those interested in Bryophytes. For this reason, I think it should be called Bryophyte Flat.

Basically, we have finished the first weed removal along Almanda Creek. It is all looking good. We left a patch of blackberries on each side of the bridge since we noticed the bandicoots crossed the creek via the bridge. In fact, we watched a mother crossing the bridge followed by a young one, which was still golden in colour, which was pretty good we thought.

The facts are that I noticed there seemed to be a correlation between the density of *Acacia pycnantha* and the diversity of native plants underneath on the eastern side of Almanda Creek and thought that might lead to a quicker way to restore the new area. So! We planted seeds over Quoyii Flat. The number was 4,000. They were counted by volume, i.e. 22 mls to the thousand. The area is an acre so that is an average of one per square metre. We will have to wait and see if it works as planned.

The only other interesting thing is that there are now 236 plant species including 167 indigenous plant species growing along Almanda Creek including 47 species varying from nationally endangered to locally rare.

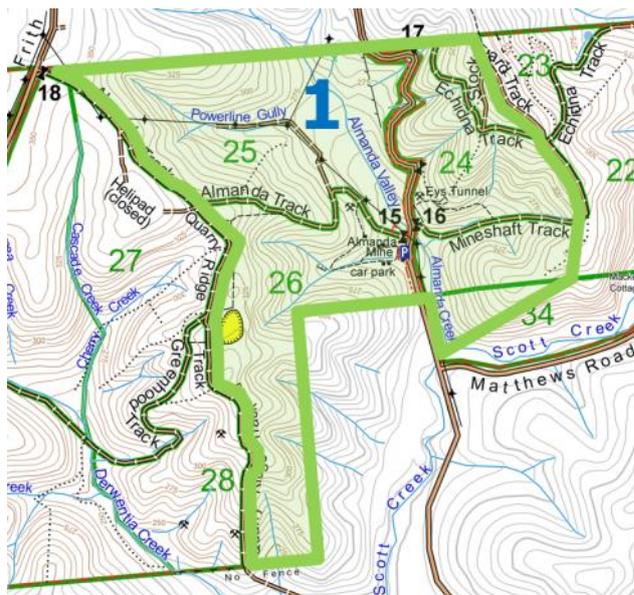
I think we can all agree that this is perhaps an understatement as far as "interesting" things go.

In addition to the core group's work, Peter drilled and filled the first few Weeping Willows along the edge of Eulamprus Reach in autumn but stopped as the leaves started to change colour before leaf fall. Once this happens and the trees become dormant, it is thought that the herbicide will not be effective. This activity will continue again once the trees put on leaf and start growing actively again in spring.

Almanda Swamp and Creek System

Contractors

- In the open grassy areas at the northern end and western side of Almanda Valley, Seeding Natives wiped Cape Tulip with the carpeted drum of a Rotowiper[®], an applicator towed behind a quad bike. They also sprayed Cape Tulip around the edges of the rushes and sedges, which were not accessible to the quad bike. This work was funded by the NRM Community Environment Grant 2018-19.
- TFL Works sprayed Cape Tulip up Powerline Gully and in an area on the east side of Almanda Valley, which were also inaccessible to the Rotowiper[®]. They also drilled and filled deciduous fruit trees through the valley and, at the northern end, knocked out larger Erica and spot sprayed the hundreds of regrowth Erica there, in order to reduce their numbers to more manageable levels for follow-up. This work was funded by the NRM Community Environment Grant 2018-19 and the second FoSCCP member's donation.
- South Australian Indigenous Flora once again followed up Blackberry spraying through the rushes and sedges in the northern end of Almanda Valley, funded by the NR AMLR Scott Creek Work Plan. Funding from the NR AMLR Threatened Flora Ecologist enabled the treatment of woody weeds around Mineshaft Track to help protect threatened plant populations.



Above left: Erica treated by contractors in the foreground.



Above right: Large deciduous trees drilled and filled by contractors.

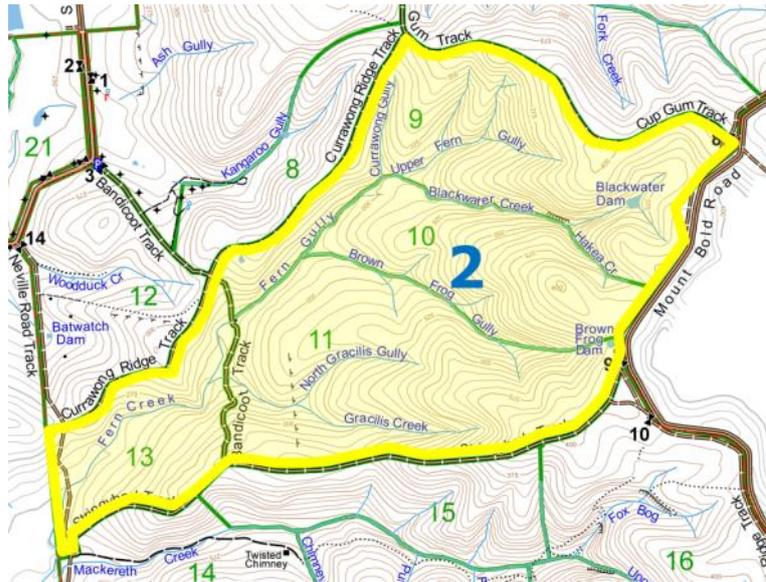
Volunteers

- In addition to the regular weekly bush gardening along Almanda Creek (see under previous section Almanda Project showcase site), scheduled volunteer activities were run on Mineshaft Ridge for woody weeds and between Dorset Vale Road and Echidna Track. Bridal Creeper and Soursob were spot sprayed on the eastern side of Almanda Valley and alongside Dorset Vale Road.

Blackwater and Fern Gully System

Contractors

- South Australian Indigenous Flora followed up the long-line spraying of Blackberry along Brown Frog Gully, undertaken by another contractor last year, and then worked on Blackberry and other woody weeds along Blackwater Creek, Fern Gully and Upper Fern Gully. This work was funded by the Carthew Foundation donation. Later, they also controlled a large patch of mature Boneseed along Brown Frog Gully, funded from the second FoSCCP member's donation.
- TFL Works followed up the long-line spraying of Blackberry along Gracilis Creek, which was also undertaken by another contractor last year. This work was funded by the Carthew Foundation donation.



Above left: Blackberry sprayed at the Crossroads.



Above right: Volunteers working on Erica at Upper Fern Gully.

Volunteers

- A considerable amount of bushcare work was undertaken by volunteers this year in the Blackwater and Fern Gully System. These included scheduled bushcare activities on Boneseed between Gracilis Creek and North Gracilis Gully, part of an activity removing woody weeds near the crossroads, at the intersection of Currawong Ridge and Bandicoot Tracks, and Erica removal in Upper Fern Gully below Tom's Outlook. There was also opportunistic Boneseed removal during a visit to inspect contractor work on the hillside south of Brown Frog Gully and Blackberry spraying in upper Currawong Gully at the Crossroads and at Fern Creek near Bandicoot Track.

Bushrat Creek System

DEW Fire Management Unit

- Once again the majority of the follow-up weed control of fire responsive species was done by DEW, following the prescribed burn that took place in Bushrat Creek in November 2016. The main target weeds were Blackberry, Broom, Boneseed and Erica, with work focussed on the areas that were burnt.



Contractors

- South Australian Indigenous Flora once again patrolled Bushrat Creek spraying Blackberry and follow-up woody weed control, including Broom and Boneseed. This work was focussed on the areas that were not burnt and was funded by the NR AMLR Scott Creek Work Plan. Part of the funding left over from Boneseed control in Brown Frog Creek was spent on the Erica forest between North Bushrat Creek and Bronzewing Track.
- TFL Works followed up spray control of Watsonia and Erica regrowth in upper Bushrat Creek near gate 7, funded from the second FoSCCP member's donation.



Above left: Watsonia sprayed at the top of Bushrat Creek.



Above right: Blackberry sprayed next to the Erica forest near the junction of Bushrat and North Bushrat Creek.

Volunteers

- Scheduled bushcare activities were spent following up on the Erica patch near gate 7 and between Cup Gum Creek and Cup Gum Track. There was also opportunistic woody weed control during a visit to inspect contractor work. Stinkweed was spot sprayed along Bushrat Track, west from gate 7.

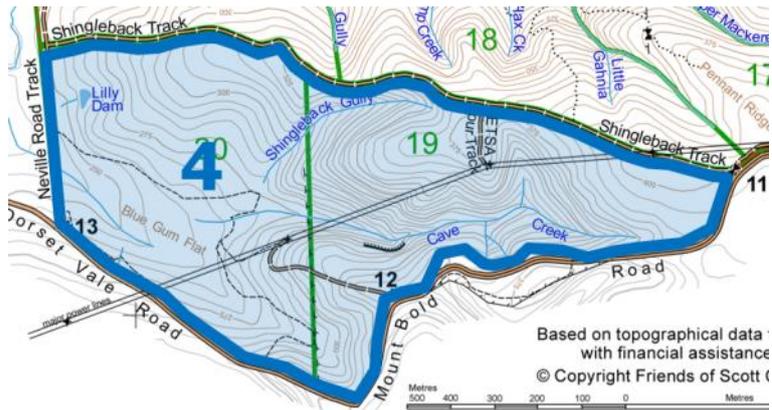
Right: Stinkwort sprayed along Bushrat Track.



Cave Creek System

Contractors

- South Australian Indigenous Flora followed up the long-line spraying of Blackberry along Cave Creek, which was undertaken by another contractor last year, and woody weeds were also treated opportunistically, including Boneseed, Erica and Sollya. This work was funded by the NR AMLR Scott Creek Work Plan.
- TFL Works were funded by an asparagus weeds budget from NR AMLR to spray Bridal Creeper at the top of Cave Creek and Blue Gum Flat around gate 12. They also spot sprayed Horehound and isolated woody weeds.



Above left: Bridal Creeper before being sprayed by contractors near gate 12.



Above right: Blackberry, Erica and Olive treated by contractors in Cave Creek.

Volunteers

- Scheduled bushcare activities included Boneseed and Broad-leaf Cotton-bush control in the north section of Blue Gum Flat near Shingleback Track, and another at the lower part of Cave Creek and up Shingleback Gully where Olive and some large Boneseed were targeted. Bridal Creeper was sprayed along the sides of Neville Road Track, along with Soursob and Cape Tulip where they were found.

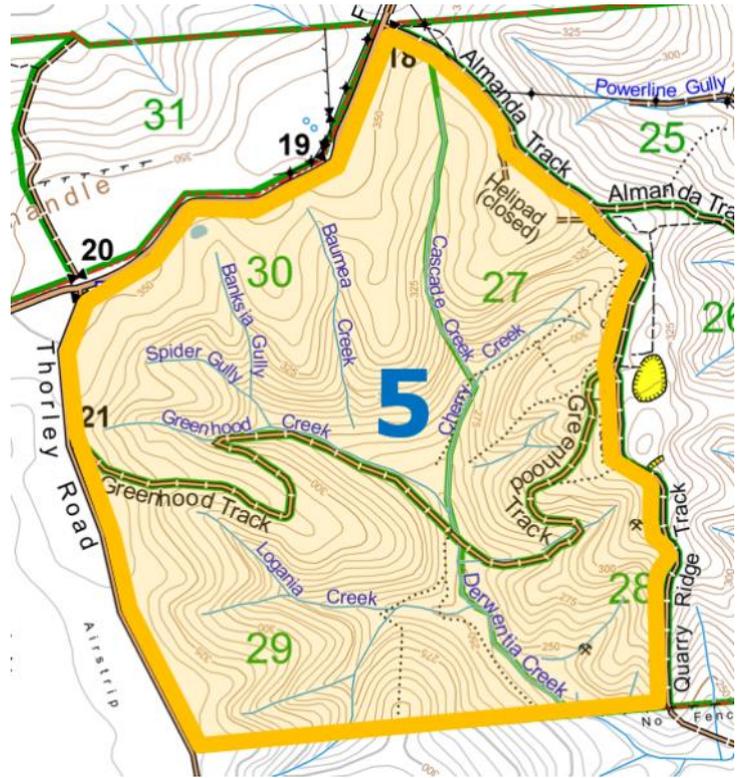


Above: Olive drilled and filled by volunteers in Cave Creek.

Derwentia Creek System

Volunteers

- There was no contractor work required in Derwentia Creek System this year, after some Blackberry was sprayed as part of last year's work plan. Scheduled volunteer bushcare activities focussed on woody weed patrols around the northern parts of Baumea and Cascade Creeks and two in the Derwentia and Logania Creek areas. Opportunistic Boneseed removal was also included in conjunction with a visit to check contractor work and survey for threatened orchids around Greenwood Track and Cherry Creek.



Right: The team working on Erica in Derwentia Valley.

Below right: A large Erica knocked out below its lignotuber.

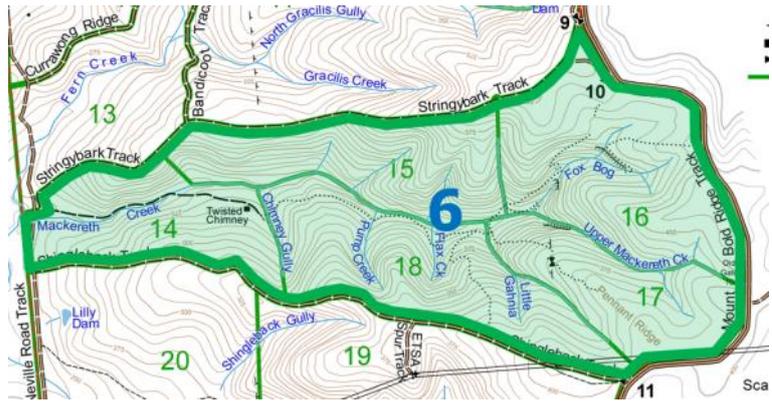
Below: An Olive drilled and filled last year.



Fox Bog and Mackereth Creek

Contractors

- South Australian Indigenous Flora was funded from the NR AMLR Scott Creek Work Plan to follow-up and extend Blackberry spraying along Mackereth Creek and throughout Fox Bog. Except for an area between Little Gahnia Creek and Upper Mackereth Creek, the primary treatment of Blackberry has been completed along the length of this system. Woody weeds were also treated opportunistically.



Volunteers

- Scheduled bushcare activities worked on the Pink Erica patches south of Fox Box, woody weeds like Boneseed and Erica above Fox Box, and Boneseed in Little Gahnia Creek. Independent activities saw Blackberry sprayed close to the Mount Bold Ridge Track above Fox Box and Bridal Creeper along the edge of Neville Road Track.



Top left: Follow-up Blackberry spraying.

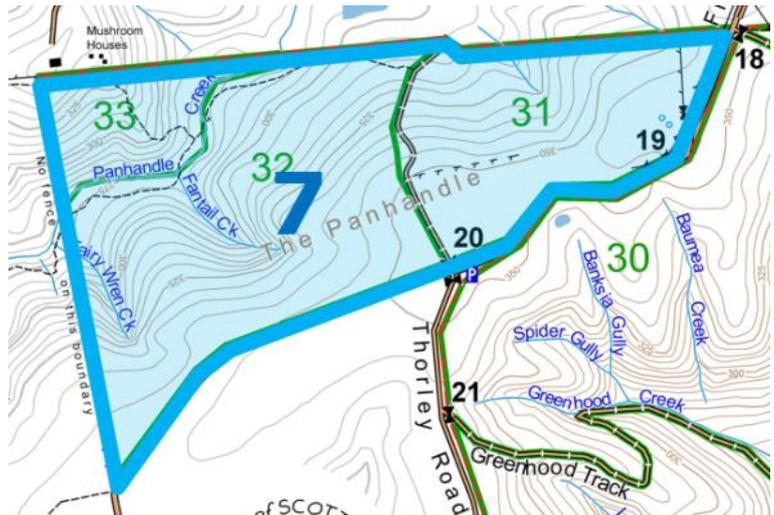
Top right: Seedling regrowth of Pink Erica.

Left: Where's Wally, or in this case, where's Andrew! Patrolling for woody weeds on the hillside above Twisted Chimney Track.

Panhandle Creek System

Contractors

- Better Bushland treated Erica, Sollya and spot sprayed some isolated patches of Blackberry in the north-western corner of The Panhandle, funded by the NR AMLR Scott Creek Work Plan.
- Early in the financial year, funding from the second FoSCCP member's donation was used to engage TFL Works to spray any Bridal Creeper found along the southern Frith Road part of The Panhandle, between SA Water in the west and gate 20. Further funding from NR AMLR followed up previous Bridal Creeper spraying along the west side of the gate 20 track to the north boundary, and along the grassy flat area west to Panhandle Creek. Follow-up work was done in the same area in winter 2020 and expanding west into large infestations amongst Blackberry and Kangaroo Thorn (*Acacia paradoxa*). Further funding was allocated from the DEW on-park Volunteer Support Grant to continue work on the large Erica and Sollya infestation in the north-western corner of The Panhandle. This received additional funding from NR AMLR.
- Environmental Contracting Services used long-line spraying to treat the large Blackberry infestation along the length of Panhandle Creek, adding to spraying being done downstream in SA Water land. They also sprayed a patch of Gorse along the northern fenceline just west of where the creek crosses into the neighbouring land, and Montpellier Broom along the edges of the creek. This work was part-funded by the DEW on-park Volunteer Support Grant and part from NR AMLR.



Above: Part of the large Blackberry infestation sprayed.

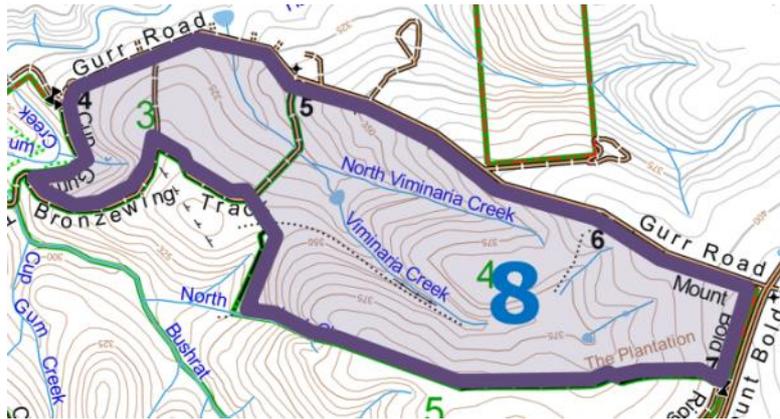
Volunteers

- Scheduled bushcare activities covered broad areas of The Panhandle, including one west of gate 20 to Fairy Wren Creek in the southern half of the area, and another in the eastern half of the area north of Panhandle Creek. The main targets were Boneseed and Sollya. There was also a separate independent visit to treat a large patch of woody weeds near Frith Road, towards the western end of the block, and Boneseed was removed during a visit to inspect contractor work.

Viminaria Creek System

Volunteers

- There was no contractor work allocated to Viminaria Creek System this year, with all weed management dealt with by volunteers. There were plenty of activities scheduled, with the main targets Erica, Boneseed and Watsonia. Areas covered included the northern Gurr Road side between gates 5 and 6, the top half of North Viminaria Creek, the Plantation, the top southern side of Viminaria Creek, and the triangle between Bronzewing Track, Viminaria Creek and Viminaria Track. There was also independent spraying of Erica seedlings, Stinkweed and St John's Wort following a regular bushcare activity.



Above left: Watsonia to be sprayed.

Above right: English Broom before removal.

Left: The two Jennies hang up their prize, an Erica they have knocked out of the ground below its lignotuber.

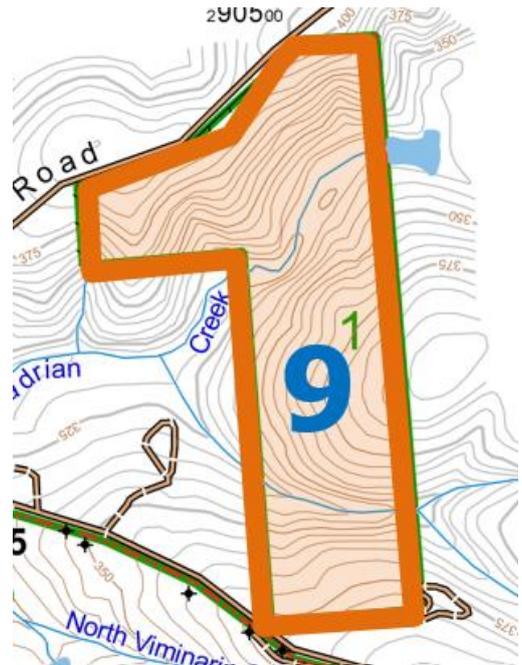
Number 1 Block

Contractors

- TFL Works worked in both creeklines of Number 1 Block this year, following up on Blackberry, treating patches of Broom and Erica, drilling and filling large Weeping Willow and Pussy Willow in the northern creekline, following up on Blackberry and Erica in the southern creekline plus spraying Watsonia at the southern, Gurr Road hillside. This work was funded from the NR AMLR Scott Creek Work Plan.

Volunteers

- Bushcare work by volunteers was restricted to some opportunistic removal of woody weeds during visits to inspect contractor work.



Above left: Erica removed from the northern creekline.

Above right: Montpellier Broom regrowth to be followed up.

Right: A large Willow drilled and filled in the northern creekline last year.



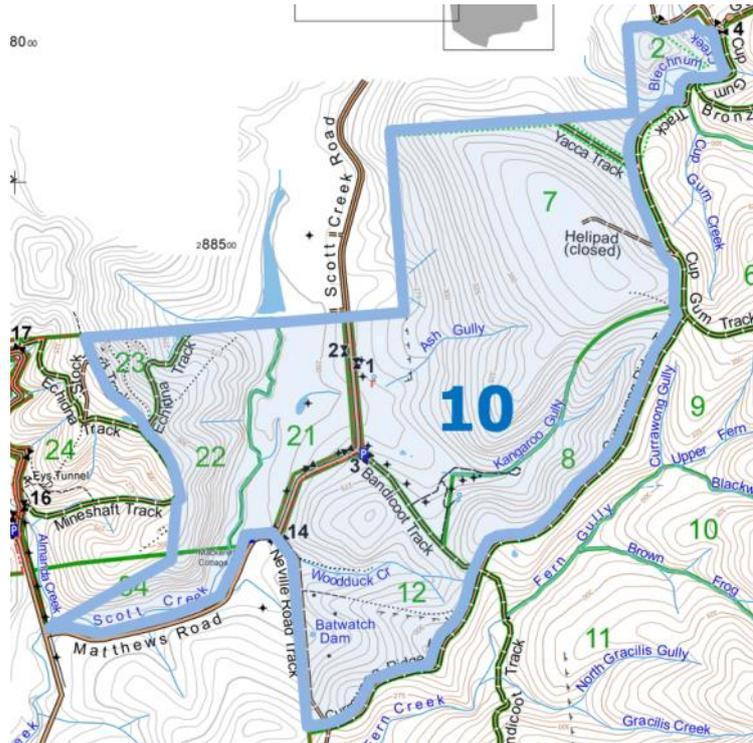
Scott Creek System

Contractors

- TFL Works followed up their previous year’s work, which included treating Montpellier Broom in Blechnum Creek and Blackberry and Willows in Scott Creek. This work was funded by the NR AMLR Scott Creek Work Plan.
- The funding provided by the NR AMLR Threatened Flora Ecologist to help protect threatened plant populations around Mineshaft Track by South Australian Indigenous Flora also resulted in work in the Scott Creek System.

Volunteers

- Several scheduled bushcare activities were spread across this large creek system in the Park. These included Broom removal along the edge of Bandicoot Track, up from gate 3, and at the Crossroads, more Broom and Wild Rose along the northern edges of Scott Creek, and a patrol across the hillside between Ash Gully and Kangaroo Gully for Erica, Boneseed, Sollya and introduced Wattles. There was also independent Blackberry spraying in Kangaroo Gully and opportunistic Broom removal in Blechnum Creek during a visit to inspect contractor work. Several of the younger Weeping Willows along Eulamprus Reach were drilled and filled.



Left: Before a patch of Montpellier Broom has been removed from the side of Bandicoot Track.



Below left: After the Broom has been removed.

Below right: Jenny and Brent removing a young Cootamundra Wattle (*Acacia baileyana*).



Financials

Funds available at 1st July 2019 **\$28,169.15**

Income:

Donations	\$10,084.00	
DEW ¹ grant funding (held in FoSCCP account)	\$5,500.00	
DEW threatened species (held by DEW)	\$2,200.00	
NRM grant funding (held by FoP Inc)	\$6,994.90	
NRM other funding (held by NRM)	\$37,950.00	
Total Income		\$62,728.90

Expenditure:

Contractors (paid from FoSCCP account)	\$25,118.16	
Contractors & expenses (paid by FoP Inc)	\$5,500.00	
Contractors (paid by DEW)	\$2,200.00	
Contractors (paid by NRM)	\$37,950.00	
Total Expenditure		\$70,768.16

Funds available at 30th June 2020 **\$20,129.89**

Volunteer Hours² **2,425.5**

Notes:

1. Includes DEW on-park Volunteer Support Grant \$5,500 approved but not received last financial year.
2. Includes only on-ground and event volunteer hours, no administration, planning or reporting.
3. All figures GST inclusive where applicable.

List of Contributors

Bob Bates	Dave Fitch	Jen Pitman
Lorraine Billett	Proo Geddes	Ian Preston
Andrew Biven	Glenn Giles	Don Reid
Jenny Biven	Petra Hanke	Donna Reid
Sue Braddock Smith	Kat Hill	Stephen Richards
Kieran Brewer	Barb Howes	Chris Scholz
John Butler	Jim Hughes	Scott Creek Primary
Rosemary Butler	Remi Hughes	School
Cherry Gardens CFS	Sam Jones	Joyce Short
Lindsay Carthew	Jane Juttner	David Speirs
Carthew & Fisher families and	Malcolm Kirkham	Declan Spoor
the Carthew Foundation	Kim Lau	Jim Spiker
Barb Copus	Brent Loes	Josh Teague
Lara Copus	Jill McPherson	Chris Thomson
Steve Davey	Richard Nesbit	Russell Troon
Jenny Dawes	NPWSSA	John Wamsley
DEW	NR AMLR	Warrawong Wildlife
DEW Fire Management Unit	Jasmin Packer	Sanctuary
Anna Dutkiewicz	Ori Packer	Kathy Watton
Mark Fagan	Tony Patterson	Peter Watton
Chris Fitch	Donella Peters	Rick Williams

...and the many others who have joined in our efforts but whose names may have been overlooked in the above list.