

# *Bandicoot Tails*

## **Newsletter of the Friends of Scott Creek Conservation Park**

No. 145, May - June, 2012

### **President's Words:**

Firstly I want to give a big vote of thanks to our Treasurer, John Thompson, who retired from the post at the last meeting. John and Arline have been members since the Group's inception and together with his very able assistant, Arline, John has served in this role for some sixteen years. Everything has always run with great efficiency and the books have always balanced. They will continue to support the Group and their house has always been available for our Christmas breakups, meetings or plant propagation working bees. In all ways they typify the best qualities of our volunteers, generous with their time, loyal and dedicated to the preservation of our beautiful park. I owe them both a big debt of gratitude- interest accruing- it's just a pity they can't be made life members again.

Donella Peters has very kindly offered to be and was unanimously voted in as, our new Treasurer. As another long-term member, I know Donella will keep everything running as smoothly as before and I am very grateful for her willingness to take over without the slightest coercion.

Last month I was fortunate enough to be voted Volunteer of the Parks 2012 and at a function held by the Rotary Club of Burnside, was presented with an extremely large piece of red gum with plaque duly inscribed. To give you an idea of size, it comes in a suitcase of its own. Below is a fairly close transcript of my acceptance speech, as there were a good number of public servants and a politician present, it seemed like too good an opportunity to pass up to push the old barrow.

“Thank you for this award and in accepting it I want to stress that I am doing so on behalf of all the members of our group who have worked so hard over so many years to make me look good. Much more importantly they have contributed thousands of hours toward restoring the biodiversity of Scott Creek whilst helping to add to our knowledge of what makes this the iconic park it is.

The word resilience is bandied around a lot these days and it has to be said that most of Friends of Parks volunteers could be included in the definition. After 21 years many of our original Group are still with us- as are those who joined many years ago. A third of

my life has been involved with this Group and it has been and continues to be, the best third.

We also need to be resilient because, despite a quantum leap in the knowledge as to why our biodiversity is so important on so many fronts, its value continues to be under-stated, under-valued and under- resourced. At budget time economists eyes inevitably seem to turn to the Environment as the first sacrificial cow. We, as volunteers working at the weed face, know this to be false economy and potentially disastrous for the long term survival of many species.

Because of **our** long term involvement we also, I believe, have a very credible voice which needs to be heard at every level of bureaucracy – the message being that de-valuing the environment harms much more than biodiversity. Our own future as a species is inextricably linked to how we treat the environment.

Thanks again to the Friends of Scott Creek and to my wife Sue who has also spent the last third of her life supporting me and the group in many ways.

If there is an after-life you all deserve a weed free one”.

Life on Macquarie Island and terrific photos of the landscape and its denizens will be the topic of our guest speaker, Alison Derry, at the next meeting. Having spent a fifteen month stint there as part of the ongoing seabird study, Alison has accumulated a wealth of knowledge and superb photos of this beautiful place. So it will be well worth struggling out on a winter’s night for this show.

### **Bird Banding:**

Since our last ‘Tails’ we have had several sessions, summarised as follows:

17/3/12	Derwentia Creek	11 captures	1 retrap	7 species
18/3/12	do.	8	4	5
31/3/12	Gate 7 site	3	1	3
1/4/12	do.	3	1	3
14/4/12	Kangaroo Gully	9	4	4
15/4/12	do.	9	1	4
5/5/12	Gate 3 Crossroads	36	6	10
6/6/12	do.	11	2	6

The most notable retrap was that of a female Golden Whistler at Gate 7, which is aged at 7+ years. Two Buffrumped Thornbills were retrapped on the 6<sup>th</sup>. May, bearing consecutive numbers and originally banded about 6 months ago at Kangaroo Gully. They may be an item! They have moved about 400 metres from the original trap site.

During our last weekend, at Gate 3 Crossroads, we birdbanders were also able to remove large quantities of boneseed which have sprung up in the burn site to the south. There is also a luxuriant growth of African daisy there waiting to be pulled!

**John Butler asks that anyone attending working bees and going directly to site rather than to the meeting area at Gate 18, (now G15), give the organiser a call the day or so before, in case of a change in plans.**

As a safety measure when working in the park, please carry a switched on mobile phone if you have one, with John's 0427 164 290 or Tom's 0417 869 349 numbers stored.

Let John and Tom know your mobile No.

We have several two-way radios for members use. These are also available at working bees.

**Programme May-September, 2012**  
**All working bees meet at 9.00am at G18 (now Gate 16)**

May	10	<b>General Meeting</b>	<b>7:30pm Thompson's. Guest Speaker, Alison Derry- 15 months on Macquarie Island</b>
	13	Sunday Working bee	Master Gully-boneseed. Radio+backpack
	17	Social Comm Meeting	12:30pm Organic Market
	19, 20	Bird banding	7:30am Gate 19
	26	Saturday Working Bee	Broom between Gate 5&6, Erica Nth Viminaria
June	5	Tuesday Working Bee	Boneseed, S&E Blackwater Dam-backpack
	10	Sunday Working Bee	Broom/B'seed Nth end Scott Ck-backpack
	16/17	Bird banding	7:30am Gate 6, Gurr Road,
	21	Social Comm Meeting	12:30pm Organic Market
	23	Saturday Working Bee	Almanda Valley-E&W –briar/broom
	30	Bird banding	Gate 11, 7.30 am
July	1	Bird banding	Gate 11, 7.30 am
	3	Tuesday Working Bee	Lower Bushrat/Blechnum Cks-Broom
	8	Sunday Working Bee	Boneseed Nth of Upper Stringybark Tr-backpack
	12	Business Meeting	Venue TBA
	14/15	Bird banding	Gate 9, 7.30 am
	26	<b>Social outing</b>	<b>Meet at Museum coffee shop 10:30am – Waterhouse Exhibition.</b>
	28	Saturday Working Bee	TBA
August	7	Tuesday Working Bee	TBA
	12	Sunday Working Bee	TBA
	18/19	Bird Banding	Gate 9, 7.30 am.
	25	Saturday Working Bee	TBA
		<b>Banrock Station</b>	Date / time TBA
September	4	Tuesday Working Bee	TBA
	9	Sunday Working Bee	TBA
	13	Business Meeting	TBA
	16	<b>Spring Walk</b>	TBA
	22	Saturday Working Bee	TBA
October	5/6/7	<b>Friends Forum</b>	<b>Naracoorte</b>

**Officebearers:**

Any queries on Friends activities, please contact your office bearers.

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**Friends Website:** <http://friendsofscottcreek.org>



**A PICTURE TELLS A THOUSAND WEEDS (FERN GULLY REGEN)**  
**SOUTH AFRICAN DAISY POST BURN -March 2012**

