

Bandicoot Tails

Newsletter of the Friends of Scott Creek Conservation Park

No. 147, September - October, 2012

President's Words: The pressure has been on the last couple of months to try and re-visit and eradicate all boneseed from previously treated sites. What a revelation it has been. It seems they have their own source of growth hormone as rate of regrowth is something to behold. However our regular band of stalwarts has been able to get back to many of our sites and the pressure will continue for some time yet especially during their "high vis" stage.

Our visit to Banrock Station although low in numbers, was a very enjoyable day. The water was quite high and only a small number of waders were seen. Black-winged Stilts, Australian Grebes, and the odd egret were about as were the very vocal and briefly glimpsed, Clamorous Reed-warblers. We had very good views of a group of fun loving Apostlebirds and the equally fun-loving magpie at the restaurant whose specialty was stealing food from unattended plates. I also had a brief glimpse of a small flock of Regent Parrots flying past as we left.

Last weekend we set up a stall at John Wamsley's open garden. Despite numbers being well down on last year and Saturday being a fairly cold and miserable day, we managed to gain four new members and sell many bird brochures. During and after his walks, John would plead the case for our under-rated understorey and battered biodiversity with a final exhortation to join our merry band and discover the joys of restoration first hand. It was good to talk to so many people with an interest in the environment over the two days and I thank Sue, Jenny, Lorraine and Chris for helping to "man" the stall. A special thanks to John and Proo for inviting us and giving us this opportunity to promote the Group.

The Foundation for Australia's Most Endangered Species was the beneficiary of the gate takings from this weekend and I was heartened to read in their newsletter that the concept of giving nature legal rights is gaining momentum. An example is in the USA, where a town has legislated that local wetlands, rivers and streams "possess inalienable and fundamental rights to exist and flourish". Interestingly, Bolivia has also passed legislation giving nature equal rights to humans. The article states that these laws are significant because "they empower communities to reject government actions that threaten the environment" Although we have laws to protect many flora and fauna species they do not

necessarily protect them from threatening processes. We still have perverse incentives such as “offsets” for “significant environmental benefit” which allow clearance of remnant vegetation if some “equivalent areas are revegetated” or money is simply paid into a fund which may not even end up benefiting the original ecosystem that was destroyed. The South Australian Government called this legislation a “win win” for the environment and those benefiting from the clearance. Had they had a voice, I would doubt the 3-400 year old red-gums cleared for vineyards (which I witnessed) would have concurred. With the inexorable march of progress, ongoing fragmentation and destruction of Australia’s environment seems destined to continue. The opportunity to increase the level of protection for our remaining habitat is one that should be embraced with enthusiasm and great haste, however I think we may be watching this space for some time.

If you want to read the full article on this initiative go to

www.gmagazine.com.au/features/2891/should-nature-have-rights



The weekend stall-JW in owner/maker felt hat

Boneseed removal (as per Pres. Words)

Liberating a rock-face-Boneseed before



Boneseed after



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Friends of Parks Presidential Chat #35:
31 August 2012

Dear Friends of Parks member groups

Promoting Friends of Parks

This President's Chat is to bring you up to date on our efforts to promote Friends of Parks, **improve recruitment** and see what we need to do to increase awareness of our activities and, in so doing, of the protected reserve system. This was one of the priority areas identified at the Friends of Parks AGM in May for the Board to concentrate on over the coming twelve months, namely how better to manage ourselves regionally and how to raise the Friends of Parks profile internally and

externally. Regionalisation is an ongoing project with talks being initiated with a number of regions and I'd hope to provide an update on progress shortly.

So far we've conducted a couple of workshops focussing on our promotional initiative; attending were several Board members, representatives of member groups and, by invitation, departmental officers with particular expertise and/or experience of working with Friends groups in a variety of locations. I stress that this is a Friends of Parks initiative with DEWNR participating essentially as partner and facilitator. The eventual outcomes will be circulated for member group consideration and eventually "road-tested" with groups and individual volunteers to gain their feedback and fine-tune to ensure consistency with your aspirations and the core values of Friends of Parks.

Our first workshop spent some time defining who we are, what we do and how best to describe ourselves in ways that have appeal and resonate positively with the wider community. The second workshop focussed on honing these outputs into the outline of a marketing plan aimed at raising the profile of Friends of Parks and, most importantly, recruiting more volunteers for our 120 member groups; at the same time we would hope to improve conservation outcomes for the protected reserve system. Being quiet achievers may be satisfying but perhaps we need to be a little more up-front in promoting what we do and why and where we do it.

After the Board considers the outcomes of the workshops we will start discussions and seeking feedback from member groups and a range of other stakeholders. We aim to reinvigorate the Friends movement by providing and articulating an identity that is coherent, contemporary and attractive to volunteers and the general public. But we need to ensure that what we propose has your support and general goodwill and will consult extensively to make this happen. If you're attending the Forum in October in Naracoorte you'll hear more from me on the subject but in the meantime I'd hope to be able to provide more detail of our thinking. I believe we need to adjust to changing circumstances but only consistent with our core values and to this end I'll try to consult as much as is possible with member groups. I look forward to your feedback.

Kind regards



President, Friends of Parks

For Better Or Worse:

One of our long-serving members, Dennis Smith (Sue's brother) was the unfortunate victim of the tree collapse at Ironbank, after the recent wind storm. His condition was critical and it is due to the sterling work of the 'ambos' that he is with us and mending. Best wishes to him and his family.

On the other hand, recent surgery on Donna Reid was very successful, with a large benign tumour being removed from her brain. She is recovering steadily from the operational trauma.

Bird Banding;

Operationally, there is nothing to report. We have had the longest hiatus due to bad weather since we started our activity. Overseas, Liz Campbell is continuing work on the banding data and is keeping us informed of her progress. She is looking at species diversity at several sites at present, but has yet to firm up her ideas on this facet of her work.

Officebearers:

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

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Programme September2012 -January 2013
All working bees meet at 9.00am at G18 (now Gate 16)

September	4	Tuesday Working Bee	Broom/boneseed G9 (Gracilis Ck)
	9	Sunday Working Bee	Boneseed & Erica Upper Fern Gully G3, Pack
	13	Business Meeting	The Reids – 7:30pm
	16	Spring Walk	Meet 9.30 at Gate 3. BYO Morning tea on walk – BYO lunch back at Gate 3, approx 1pm
	22	Saturday Working Bee	Boneseed TBA
	29	Bird Banding	Mackereth Creek, 7.00 am
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October	2	Tuesday Working Bee	Boneseed & Erica , Derwentia Ck, G 21
	5/6/7	Friends Forum	Naracoorte
	14	Sunday Working Bee	Broom & Erica, Nth Viminaria Ck, G5
	18	“Social Committee”	Warrawong 12pm
	20	Bird Banding	Gate 7, 7.00am.
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	27	Saturday Working Bee	Broom & Bulbs, Upper Bushrat Ck, G7
November	6	Tuesday Working Bee	Erica, Olives etc., S Derwentia Valley, G 21
	9	<u>Note- FRIDAY AGM</u> <u>Change of venue</u>	7:30 PM Cherry Gardens CFS Station Guest Speaker – Bev Langley-Minton Farm
	11	Sunday Working Bee	Broom, bulbs, old G10 & roadside verge.
	15	“Social Committee”	Warrawong 12pm
	24	Saturday Working Bee	Erica G16
December	4	Tuesday Working Bee	Broom, Erica E of G5
	9	Sunday Working Bee	TBA
	21	Christmas BBQ	At Thompson’s from 6pm.
	22	Saturday Working Bee	TBA
January	1	Tuesday Working Bee	TBA
	13	Sunday Working Bee	TBA
	26	Saturday Working Bee	TBA