

Bandicoot Tails

Newsletter of the Friends of Scott Creek Conservation Park

No. 156

November-December, 2014

President's Words:

Our working bees have recently concentrated on the last burn area east of Neville Rd, as there was a mass germination of boneseed across much of the site. Many thousands were eradicated and we were also able to have a contractor spray some very vigorous patches of Cape Tulip. At least some uncommon and rarely seen orchids were observed but overall, what was supposed to be a "cool" burn went through at canopy height and killed many old hollow-filled stringybarks which 'chimneyed' and fell down. The whole area is littered with them and from a habitat perspective fairly devastating on the inhabitants. Not much conserving for those species considered.

Planting Hakeas at Scott Creek Conservation Park

These are some essays from the kids that helped plant out our hakeas. They were a delightful group of children (who paid attention!!) and together with some of their parents, worked very diligently and planted them in quick time. The extended dry necessitated their watering recently but surprisingly nearly all were looking quite strong and healthy.

It was a perfect, sunny Wednesday morning. I was excited because our whole class was going to plant Hakea seedlings. On the way there, we passed flowering Wattles and grass trees with their giant, flammable, flower stems.

When we got there we had a little run around and then sat down so Tom could tell us how to plant Hakeas properly. Altogether, we planted over 100 Hakeas. After we planted the Hakeas, we had our healthy snack and recess. Then, we went to see the creek. We went back to school. I hope we can go again soon.

By Tyler.



It was a sunny morning on Wednesday. I was very excited. I went with Scarlett and Sasha. Our driver was Jen. On the way, we played a game called Platypus. We also listened to music. When we got there the grass was wet and I could see lots of Hakeas already planted. Fiona had blue gloves, if you didn't have any gloves. First Tom showed us some photographs of birds. Then he showed us how to plant the Hakeas. There were a lot of Hakeas to plant. Reuben's dad took us on a walk while we were eating our healthy snack and recess. On the way back if you had any food left you could eat it. I also had a big drink. When we arrived at school, it was recess.
By Mia



When I got to school I had a nervous feeling but also excited because we are planting hakeas. At 9.00 we went in people's cars. I was in Fiona's car with Sammy and Ruby. When we got there a man called Tom showed and talked about some birds including the Yellow-tailed Cockatoos we are trying to save them.

Tom showed us how to plant them

Step 1: Squeeze the container then tap it and it will come out.

Step 2: Dig a hole and loosen the roots and put it in the hole.

Step 3: Make a dam around it.

Step 4: Water it.

Then once we planted them we went on a walk and had a snack. Later we went on a walk to a waterfall but we couldn't because there was too much undergrowth. I felt happy on that trip.

By Riley



On Wednesday we went to Scott Creek Conservation Park to plant hakeas for some endangered birds. We mostly planted Hakeas it was 20 degrees.

We planted about a hundred hakeas! After we ate our recess we went for a bush walk. I saw some kangaroo bones. After our walk we went back to school.

At school we have a bucket of some of the kangaroo bones. After lunch we watered plants from the working bee. Our class had fun!

Tom and Sue and Joe helped us. Tom told us about the birds that lived around Scott Creek and how to plant the hakeas.

By Sammy.



It was a nice sunny day for planting the hakeas on Wednesday. I was excited because we were going to Scott Creek. Riley, Sammy and me spotted a view and a school. I got to water two of Tom's hakeas. Tom showed some of the birds that lived at Scott Creek. When we got there I did lots of things. The class went for a walk. After that the class had recess. It was really fun, I wish we could go there again.

By Ruby



It was a lovely Wednesday morning. I got ready to go to school. It was under 20 degrees. I went to Scott Creek Conservation Park with Tyler and Leanne. We saw lots of Yaccas and other native plants.

When we were there I was so excited. There were over 1000 hakeas already planted. We had to plant 100 hakeas. We had a run around. Then we listened to Tom. Then we got started. Joe was helping and Sue. As quick as lightening we were finished. Then we went down to the creek. There was a climbing tree.

When it was time to go I said to myself, I love this place. By Julian.



Hope to see you at the AGM, It should be an interesting talk from a very enthusiastic speaker.

Training Workshop Report:

Fostering Sustainable Behaviour and Community Based Social Marketing

Overview

In early September, some DEWNR staff members offered volunteer places at this 2-day training workshop. In this region, FOSSCCP were among those chosen not least due to creating the crowd-funded Almanda Project. Tom kindly passed the invitation on to me. It offered possibilities to explore some intriguing unknown areas (a bit like our beautiful park)!

At the Belair Country Club, the maximum number of 120 people met Canadian Dr Doug McKenzie-Mohr, an environmental psychologist. Unknown to many, it seems this profession has been around for quite a while dealing with the interaction between humans and their various environments. Doug is obviously passionately committed to getting people to improve their care of the planet. Once focussed on academic work, he now consults and trains all over the world, including in Australia, and is developing a website as a resource and for sharing and support among all those endeavouring to care for the environment. It includes his book on which the workshop was based (FOSSCCP has a copy from the workshop) –

<http://www.cbsm.com/pages/guide/preface/>.

Over the two tightly structured days, using various case studies, he illustrated how psychologists' understanding of human behaviour can be utilised to be more strategic in getting people to engage in more effective and sustainable outcomes. Community

based social marketing (CBSM) is an approach that workers in fields such as health promotion projects have employed for some time eg. In Australia's very successful anti-smoking campaign, so it does offer considerable promise if effectively employed to benefit the environment. More details of workshop's content below* for those who want them.

DEWNR staff who work on projects seemed to be more readily relating and gaining insights about creating effective strategies, notable by their responses on the second day when we had to do some activities in our 'peer' groups. That's when we Friends' volunteers found there was only a handful of us! This did give us a rare opportunity to share information about aspects of our groups' operations – and a similarly rare opportunity to talk with DEWNR staff who want to care for the environment. Sometimes it's these information-sharing connections that value-add to such events. Meanwhile the challenge is to try and utilise the information into something of practical value to a Friends' group. Whilst effectively employing the CBSM approach is likely to achieve more sustained behaviour change, it requires gathering information and careful planning to achieve the selected goal – and many Friends would rather be enjoying their park!

Some of what Doug said (somewhat re-arranged). See also above website [My italicised illustrations/comments]

- On their own, those common information-intensive campaigns (ads, brochures, etc.) don't work well to change behaviour. They're used because that's not well understood (often not well evaluated) and they're easy to do. *Perhaps bushfire prevention information has been like this?*
- Carefully select the desired behaviour eg. *more hands-on bushcarers for FOSCCP!* Attitudes don't necessarily equal behaviours eg. a littering example: majority dislikes it but 2% picked it up.
- It's difficult to 'unseat' habitual / unconscious behaviours. About 45% behaviours are done on autopilot in a consistent environment.
- Opportunity exists when lifestyle changes occur – *should we bushcarers try and recruit new retirees?*
- Create a positive picture (not fearful, negative).
- Benefits can trump barriers – *fits with the above. Do we market all the many benefits of our activities?*
- Consider barriers to behaviours. Effectiveness may need both barriers and behaviours to be broken down into subsets.
- Note that inconvenience diminishes and can overcome motivation; reducing barriers assists motivation – *eg. think about trying to do enough daily exercise! And, on a positive note, that, given park users are already out in the park, they may be easier to recruit as bushcarers?*
- Barriers to behaviour change tend to be community based. Your networks affect your decisions about behaviour. This can be used to effect change.
- A strategy is to recruit well regarded/ respected network member (maybe coach person in how to talk about the behaviour effectively)
- Achieve it in one network, can move it /jump across to another (Social diffusion). NB. The people you're targeting may not be motivated by the same things that you are. However they may engage for other reasons.

- Enhance people's self-perception. Build on something they are already saying/doing.
- Think how to showcase the action to the community ie. create a social norm. You want a public and durable commitment to be seen by those you want to commit to it. Stickers, T-shirts? *Q. How well is Friends' bush care showcased to park users?*
- Social proof of behaviour (ie. it being visible to others) helps drive behaviours [*eg. everyone putting out their recycling bins*].
- Commitment to the behaviour: weakest is verbal one, written is a bit stronger, but a public one is stronger and more durable eg. part of a shoreline bird care project displayed named photos of owners with their dogs on leads at the targeted site. Social media and Facebook are only 7% effective.

Doug cited examples of explaining reasons for/aim of desired behaviour/s, asking "Can I count on you to do", but including agreement to publicly display a sticker (on letterbox/car/rubbish bin) of the agreed to behaviour and how this led those who hadn't agreed to feel in the minority and to want to do it too.

When a sense of individual helplessness/ineffectiveness is an issue, address it at very local (*specific*) level. Success at this level may be taken up by others and so be encouraged to spread. *FOSCCP crowd-funding?*

As I reflect on the points above, it seems to me that *Trees for Life* is an organisation that, over time, has successfully used some of the above techniques to get people to adopt and sustain behaviours which improve the environment.

I understand that DEWNR staff who do community engagement work had already been trained in this C.B.S.M. approach (They organised this workshop). Thanks to the ranger in charge of our region for our group's opportunity to attend.

Jenny Dawes.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Don't forget our AGM at the Cherry Gardens CFS, with Luke Price from DEWNR as the Guest Speaker.

Meeting starts at 7.00 pm.

Here is a copy of the flyer Jenny Dawes assembled.

**WANT TO KNOW MORE ABOUT THESE
ENDANGERED BIRDS?**



**FRIENDS OF SCOTT CREEK CON PARK AGM
13 NOV AT CHERRY GARDENS CFS -
294 CHERRY GDNS RD.
A,G,M, AT 7PM**

**GUEST SPEAKER AT 730
THREATENED FAUNA ECOLOGIST
LUKE PRICE**

Bird Banding Report:

We have been able to hold three sessions since our last 'Tails' report. Here are the details.

30/31 August Gate 9 site 29 captures inc. 8 recaptures.
20/21 September Gate 4 site 12 captures in 2 recaptures.
4/5 October Gate 19 site 8 captures inc. 3 recaptures.

Notable age records for the recoveries include:

4+ Striated Thornbill at G9

9+ Eastern Spinebill at G9. This bird has been recaptured twice before at 4+ and 6+ years, so it is a regular to this area.

8+ Whitebrowed Scrubwren at G4. This bird is a regular in our nets, having been recaptured 10 times since 2006.

5+ Striated Thornbill at G19. originally banded at G7 site, this bird has travelled approximately 3 km. to be recaptured at G19. This one of our longest 'relocations'.

Numbers of captures have been down substantially. Can this be partly attributable to the dry weather we are experiencing?

Many thanks are due to those banders who show up regularly. Without them, our long lived programme would never have occurred.

Programme November 2014 -January 2014 **All working bees meet at 9.00am at G18 (now Gate 16)**

November	1,2	Bird banding	Derwentia Creek, 6.30 am.
	4	Tuesday Working Bee	Erica, Olives etc., S Derwentia Valley, G 21
	9	Sunday W Bee	TBA
Thursday	13	AGM-7PM-Meeting Cherry Gardens CFS	7.30pm-Speaker - Luke Price Threatened Fauna Ecologist, Black Cockatoos
	15,16	Bird banding	Gate 7, 6.30 am.
	22	Saturday Working Bee	TBA
	29,30	Bird banding	Scott Creek, at Mackereth Cottage, 6.30 am.
December	2	Tuesday Working Bee	Broom, Erica E of G5
	14	Sunday Working Bee	TBA
	19	Christmas BBQ	At the Reids from 6pm- BYO-BBQ
	20, 21	Bird banding	Kangaroo Gully, 6.30 am. – enter Gate 3
	27	Saturday Working Bee	TBA

January	6	Tuesday Working Bee	TBA
	8	Business Meeting	Tom & Sue's-7.30, 68 Mahar Rd, Cherry Gardens
	11	Sunday Working Bee	TBA
Wednesday	14	Social Committee	The Artisan-Blackwood 12pm
	17/18	Bird banding	Gate 9, 6.30 am.
	24	Saturday Working Bee	TBA
February	1	Bird Outing	Laratinga Wetlands-Mt Barker- Meet at entrance at 8am.
	3	Tuesday W Bee	TBA
	8	Sunday W Bee	TBA
	14,15	Bird banding	TBA
	28	Saturday W Bee	TBA

. Officebearers:

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

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