

2013

November 2013 News

The first activity in November was cancelled due to rain.

In fact four activities were cancelled due to rain the last 4 month. Most unusual!

However, we did make good inroad into the hawthorn infestation at the end of Forest Rd.

We have also done the last check of the wayleave for the year.

There is only one activity left, and then we close down for two month.

So I'll like to wish you all a MERRY CHRISTMAS and a HAPPY NEW YEAR!

October 2013 News

October was cold, windy and wet, but we were still quite active.

On the 1st, 4 of us went to a very interesting 'Fire Seminar' run by HCC, with Stephen Bresnehan as the main speaker. He talked about 'checkerboard' patterns for hazard reductions burns as an ecological tool. Among other things, he mentioned that site KR 15 near Knocklofty Tce. entrance is due for a burn this spring. So don't worry if you see smoke. We did some plant maintenance at the Poets Rd. quarry, and got stuck into the hawthorn at the end of Forest Rd. This year's Plant-Giveaway (publicised by 6 great FoKL people letterboxing 350 leaflets!) was preceded by a very interesting bird watch conducted by Denis Abbott. Did you know that seagulls can recognise people? We had a convenors meeting with the HCC's bushcare management group.

The track upgrade from the Bandicoot Corridor to Mt. Stuart is finished! It is still settling and the rain has made it a little soft in places, but it is an excellent addition to the tracks in the reserve. You get some fine glimpses of the city among the trees, and it is a good bit of dry sclerophyll forest it goes through. The construction crew made a great job of obliterating the old track, in a year or two, you wouldn't know where it was. It takes 40 minutes to walk from Mt. Stuart car park to Forest Rd. car park. Families with children and their friends of different ages could drop the older ones at Mt. Stuart, and then drive to Forest Rd. car park, where the younger ones could play around the lookouts and frog ponds, while waiting for the others.

September 2013 News

September saw us working in the southern part of the reserve, around the end of Forest Rd., both above and below the road.

The upgrade of the track from the Bandicoot Corridor to Mt. Stuart is almost finished. It adds a BIG s-bend to the track. I'm sure the people on mountain bikes will like it. (this track is a designated ' multi use track')

Students from grades 2/3 and 3 at Lansdowne Cres. Primary School held a fund raising event last Friday. They decided to share the money between orang-utans and their habitat in Indonesia and FoKL.

I was invited to the school yesterday to receive \$ 200 for our group. It's really great to see children willing to support their local reserve. We will use it for new cutters.

July 2013 News

Surprisingly, we had to cancel two activities this month, due to rain.

So the frogs seem happy, croaking away.

Though some of that is due to the big water tank being emptied due to maintenance and new stairs.

We are now so up-to-date with the wayleave, we have decided that for a couple of months,

we can use the third Thursday for other work.

Also there is nothing urgent in the areas we usually look after.

So for the next 6 activities (two month) we will concentrate on the last very bad area of gorse and Euryops, situated on the eastern slope of the reserve near Mt. Stuart.

June 2013 News

In spite of the 'browning off' of the land you still see a lot of wallabies, potoroos and birds in the reserve.

In June we did a bit of plant maintenance at Poets Rd. quarry and a little in-fill planting.

Because it's so dry, the big planting has been postponed.

We cleared gorse south of the Fiona Allan Track.

The maintenance of the wayleave is almost done for the year.

Jim A. agreed to be our person in an ABC video doco. on volunteer work.

Lansdowne Primary School is applying for a NAB school grant, and FoKL is mentioned as one of the partners.

The HCC track work on the Mt. Stuart Track is halfway done. It's a BIG S-bend.

May2013 News

May went well with work around 133 Forest Rd., we cleared the gorse that we thought was in the reserve.

We have also asked HCC for clarification with regard to the boundary. (Third time lucky?)

Sunday was spent weeding near the realignment of track to Mt. Stuart. The track is coming along apace.

If you go to the end of Forest Rd. you will see what a wayleave looks like, when a contractor comes in and clears it.

I'm so glad this doesn't happen in the reserve any more, thanks to our members.

Regnans has been paid to clear re-growth from the buffer zone on Optus land, and Optus will pay next year.

We had a very successful day with Australian Conservation Volunteers on Tuesday. FoKL was given another day in lieu of the one that was rained out.

Thanks to Margaret P., Bruce C., Vicki M. and Jim A. for working as well.

We cleared the block of land at the end of Forest Rd. that HCC acquired after the 1967 fires, as well as the area next to Ross Rivulet.

We have wanted to tackle this for a long time, but never had enough people to do so. Lansdowne Cres. Primary School's internet app. featuring Knocklofty Trails in

English and Indonesian was selected by AITSL, for national distribution through the education network as an outstanding example in language and science. I was invited to joined the students and teachers in the filming this morning, and the reserve was at its best!

It is with sadness we note that Jennifer Ault passed away this month. Our thoughts are with Antony Ault.

April 2013 News

The lack of rain is really noticeable in the reserve.
The animal tracks are becoming dry, dusty runnels.
The only positive is that it's easier to see the gorse and broom.
Our work days went well, and the two last ones ended with coffee and cake!
Bruce and I had a rather inconclusive meeting with Richard Greenhill, Manager (Acting) Bushland and Reserve Unit and Anna Greig, Bushcare Co-ordinator regarding Poets Rd. quarry re-vegetation.
The HCC track work from the Bandicoot Corridor to Mt. Stuart is moving a-pace.

March 2013 News

March went well, with 10 Australian Conservation Volunteers and their supervisor joining us on the 7th and 21st. The first day we cleared a lot of old growth gorse on the hill side at the end of Forest Rd. It was good to see Anna Greig, HCC Bushcare Co-ordinator, joining us in the afternoon.

The second day we had the same number of volunteers, but we had to stop after an hour because of the rain. We moved to our house and had morning coffee. Enjoyed by all. I talked with the ACV manager about the interrupted day. He said because they were so impressed with the number of volunteers from our own ranks, (THANK YOU THURSDAY PEOPLE!) they would look favourably at the possibility of giving us half-a-day at some later stage.

We have always had a good relationship with Lansdowne Primary School, the students helping with planting and other work over the years. The latest was our involvement with the iPhone app. of trails in the reserve. One of the teachers,(a personal friend), asked me to take a couple of walks in the reserve with students, parents and teachers. They were all very pleased with the outings, and the teachers and parents decided to donate \$50 to FoKL. This has been banked, and will be used for tools and gloves.

There has been meetings with HCC re the revised Policies, and further planting at the Poets Rd. quarry. Because we feel planting might not be a good idea as the winter is forecasted to be dry, our program has been altered slightly. Work on the widening of the narrow part at the top of Forest Rd. is due to start soon, so please be patient with the road workers!

February 2013 News

The first month's activities were affected by the heat.

On the 6th Greg and Astrid, + Anna, Bec and John from HCC walked around in the noon heat – (something about mad dogs and Englishmen in the midday heat?), looking at OH&S aspects with regard to work in, and near quarries. Formal recommendations will follow later.

The 'total fire ban' on Thursday 7th meant our activity was cancelled. It is HCC policy to close reserves on 'total fire ban days'.

On Sunday we cut old growth gorse, in the heat, at the end of Forest Rd. We really had to finish early, and iced water was good.

The wayleave maintenance went well. When you are up on the top of Knocklofty, it is obvious how dry everything is, and how the vegetation is suffering.