



# Friends of Ferguson Park



Newsletter No. 113 July 2015

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**Annual Memberships are due 1<sup>st</sup> January each year payable to President/Treasurer, Geoffrey Bishop.**

**Any memberships not current should be forwarded to the above ASAP. Please ask if you are unsure of your credit status!**

**Park Working Bees**  
**First Sunday of month**  
**10am, Main Gate,**  
**Hallett Road**  
**Stonyfell**

**Park Working Bee**  
**Dates 2015**

4 January  
1 February  
1 March  
5 April  
3 May  
7 June  
5 July  
2 August  
6 September  
4 October  
1 November  
6 December

## Working Bees Update

January – June 2015

The monthly working bees continue to be attended by 8-10 willing volunteers who undertake a variety of tasks including litter removal, weeding, watering, revegetation and general site maintenance.

The year started very dry and one of the main tasks over summer was the continued hand watering of 40-50 young acacias and native pines in the more western half of the Park (towards Hallett Road) to ensure their survival over summer. No eucalypt seedlings have been recorded in this area, which is of concern.

Weeding of the more intact Hallett Road 'triangle' is ongoing, and weeds targeted include Pentaschistis, Sparaxis, Cape Tulip and Plantain.

The cutting and swabbing of Ash seedlings in Stonyfell Creek continued whilst the creek was dry and easy to access.

Erosion control works in Stonyfell Creek were undertaken in the autumn (see article below) and in June we began revegetating the banks and creekbed where works occurred.

## Current Projects

### Stonyfell Creek Restoration Project

In April 2015 DEWNR engaged LCS Landscapes to carry out a number of "small works" on Stonyfell Creek upstream from the large rock chute constructed in early 2013. These further works consist of a number of weirs, which control the rate of fall of the Creek, and a section of fencing to stabilise the bank on a bend. The works were designed by Australian Water Environments as part of the overall plan to rehabilitate the Creek. The scope of the work was tailored to use up our remaining funds from the Community Grants scheme. (The scheme has now been wound up.)

LCS Landscapes carried out the work in late April, just in time before the ground became too boggy from the first winter rains. The result was impressive and we look forward to an improvement in this stretch of Creek over time. A big thank you to our Ranger, Amy Anderson, for organising this stage of the Creek project.

To complete the project, we need to construct some further small works, as well as a major rock chute in the vicinity of the SA Water discharge pipe at the eastern end of the Creek. This work will be carried out when further grant funding can be sourced.

James Swanson



*Pile drop weir (foreground) and log drop weir*



*Alignment fence*

**Revegetation Update**

On World Environment Day in June 2013 we arranged for students from St Peters Girls School to plant seedlings along a disused section of walking track leading down to Stonyfell Road on the northern side of the Park. The track had been rerouted in order to minimise erosion. Around the same time we undertook plantings along the lower part of Stonyfell Creek following the construction work at sites 2 and 3.

In summer we have hand-watered the plantings, apart from those in the creekbed itself.

The plantings by the students have survived quite well, particularly the Sticky Hopbush (*Dodonaea viscosa*), goodenia (*Goodenia ovata*) and Golden Wattle (*Acacia pycnantha*). The *Cyperus vaginatus* we planted in the creekbed has thrived and has helped to create an environment where self-sown plants can establish themselves. On the other hand the plantings along the bank have struggled and there has been a high failure rate. The annual rye grass we planted as a temporary measure failed to germinate at all. Undoubtedly, the ‘scalping’ of the top soil during the construction work, together with long spells of hot and/or dry weather, has made revegetation in this area difficult.

**James Swanson**



*Sticky Hopbush and Goodenia along the disused track*



*Cyperus vaginatus in the creek bed*



*Self-sown River Red Gum (Eucalyptus camaldulensis) in the creek bed*



*Struggling plantings on the southern bank*



*More success on the northern bank*

**Stonyfell Creek planting July 2015**

The first replanting on a section of Stonyfell Creek following the completion of the remedial works occurred on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> July. Sixty tubestock plants were planted by members in the vicinity of the holding pond immediately upstream of the rock works completed in 2013. If you have not looked at the new remedial works, please do so. The waterflows so far have shown how the barriers, rocks and fencing will break water flow rates and cause silt to accumulate thereby reducing bank and base erosion. The works were largely done by hand and site disturbance was minimal.

The plant species planted are listed here. The soil conditions along the upper banks were quite dry in most places. The plants were watered after planting and we were fortunate to have light rain on the two evenings that followed the plantings.

<i>Juncus sarophorus</i>	A reed with no common name	Water species
<i>Ficinia nodosa</i>	Swamp Club-rush	Water species
<i>Allocasuarina verticillata</i>	Drooping Sheoak	
<i>Austrostipa setacea</i>	Corkscrew Spear-grass	
<i>Bulbine bulbosa</i>	Native Leek	Yellow-flowers lily
<i>Callitris gracilis</i>	Southern Cypress Pine	
<i>Einadia nutans</i>	Climbing Saltbush	Scrambling shrub; coloured fruits
<i>Gonocarpus tetragynus</i>	Common Raspwort	
<i>Hakea rugosa</i>	Dwarf Hakea	Low, spreading shrub
<i>Helichrysum apiculatum</i>	Common Everlasting	Yellow paper-daisy
<i>Leptospermum lanigerum</i>	Silky Teatree	Soft pale blue foliage; white flowers
<i>Linum marginale</i>	Austral Flax	Bright blue flowers
<i>Lotus australis</i>	Austral Trefoil	Legume; flowers white/pink
<i>Xanthorrhoea quadrangulata</i>	Mount Lofty Grasstree	Grass Tree

Our proposed replanting of the area next to SPCGS's crèche has been put off until spring in order to complete effective weed control. The soil disturbance during fence-building activities resulted in abundant weed growth, especially of Soursob and Annual Veldt grass.

Geoffrey Bishop

## Extra items of interest

### Controlling woody weeds

Woody weeds are weeds which tend to have 'hard' woody stems or trunks, as opposed to the 'soft'-stemmed herbaceous and grassy weeds. Some of the woody weeds in the Adelaide area include Olives, Buckthorn (*Rhamnus alaternus*), Boxthorn (*Lycium ferocissimum*), Ash (*Fraxinus angustifolia*), Periwinkle (*Vinca major*) and even Bridal Creeper (*Asparagus asparagoides*) which has a very fleshy root. We are lucky in Ferguson that most of the woody weeds have been treated, but vigilance is always required as the seed of these types of weeds is easily spread by birds or by water down the creeklines.

Woody weeds tend to be quite tenacious and, if left to grow to maturity, can be very difficult to control. Some of the methods which are used to control them in bushland, preferably before they reach maturity, include:

- Hand-pull small seedlings – do when the soil is moist
- Slashing
- Careful spot-spray with herbicide
- Drill and fill (with systemic herbicide) of individuals with a trunk diameter greater than 4-7cm
- Cut and swab (with systemic herbicide) of individuals with a trunk diameter less than 4-7cm
- Ringbarking

Each of these methods has advantages and disadvantages and sometimes a combination of methods may prove to be the most effective. For more information, a good local source is *Stop Bushland Weeds. A guide to successful weeding in South Australia's bushland*, by Meg Robertson (SA Nature Conservation Society).

Doug Nicholas & Sarah Telfer