



Friends of Ferguson Park



Newsletter No. 122 – May 2018

President: Geoffrey Bishop, "Ferndale" PO Box 194, Uraidla SA 5142 Ph: 8390 3138

Newsletter Editor
Sarah Telfer
Ph: 0427 313344

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

Park Working Bee
Dates 2018

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

Working Bees Update

February 2018

- Very dry conditions
- Pentaschistis patrol
- Spot-spraying of Couch and Kikuyu in Stonyfell Creek. Too dry for spraying to be effective along Ferguson Creek.

March 2018

- Geoffrey in discussion with Wayne Brown (revegetation contractor) re rehabilitation/revegetation of the ex-builders' access track. The rubble has been removed, however it has left a bare and compacted 'scar'. There are also plans to revegetate an area in the north-west corner of the Park, adjacent to St Peters'. This area is infested with weeds which are thriving as a result of a water leak coming from the school.
- The group laid out 20 bales of barley straw across the newly bare builders' access track to reduce water movement and soil erosion (when the rains come). Excess rubble rocks were removed from the track by hand and stockpiled.
- James is repairing the FFCP sign which is usually at the Hallet Road entrance to the Park. This was also damaged by building contractors.

April 2018

- Still very dry conditions
- Hand-pulling and digging of weeds (i.e. Plantain) along the school boundary where water runoff is encouraging their growth

May 2018

- Geoffrey reported that Wayne Brown will commence revegetation soon.
- Geoffrey sprayed Kikuyu etc in the north-west corner of the Park adjacent to the school.
- Rice Millet removal along the banks of Stonyfell Creek.
- Patrol for Plantain in some of the better areas of Park.
- After recent rains, the weeds are starting to appear, in particular Soursob, Sparaxis and Freesia.

FFCP Annual General Meeting

12 February 2018 at 16 Neville Avenue, Clarence Gardens

Present: Geoffrey Bishop (President), Colin Harris, Wendy Percy, Martin Percy, Elaine Smyth, James Swanson, Bill Bainger, Gerhard Weber, David Heard (Senior Ranger, DEWNR).

Apologies: Helen Bainger, Doug Nicholas, Judi Nicholas, Margaret Preiss, Sarah Telfer

Geoffrey welcomed all members to the 35th AGM of the Friends of Ferguson Park.

AGM Business:

- Minutes of the 2017 AGM were passed and adopted. Proposed Colin, seconded James.
- President's Report 2017: will appear in the next Newsletter.
- Financial Report for 2017 presented. A query was raised regarding the drop in subscriptions compared to the previous year. Geoffrey and Martin will send out a mail to all members reminding them of the fees and giving the bank details for payment. Adoption moved Geoffrey, seconded Wendy, adopted.
- **Office Holders for 2018** – No new nominations for office holders were received, so the 2017 office holders were confirmed in place. These are:
 - President - Geoffrey Bishop
 - Vice-President – James Swanson
 - Secretary – Wendy and Martin Percy
 - Grants Convener/Treasurer - Geoffrey Bishop
 - Newsletter Co-ordinator – Sarah Telfer
 - OHS Co-ordinator – James Swanson

The meeting recorded thanks to office bearers for their work in 2017, and special thanks to Sarah for the newsletter.

- David Heard (Senior Ranger, DEWNR) presented Long Service badges to:

Geoffrey Bishop	35 years
Margaret Preiss (not present)	35 years
Judi Nicholas (not present)	25 years
Doug Nicholas (not present)	25 years
Colin Harris	10 years
Martin Percy	10 years
Wendy Percy	10 years
Elaine Smyth	10 years
James Swanson	10 years
Neil Crisp (not present)	10 years

Correspondence:

- Emails regarding the SPCGS building site work

Business Arising and General Business:

1. *Membership Fees* –It was agreed to continue \$10 per member annual fee. Reminders will be mailed out. Elaine suggested that bank details should be included with the mail to enable direct crediting of the Friends' account. There is an option to call on members to fund a specific project.
2. *Work Plan for 2018*
The work plan will continue from 2017.
 - a. Planting by the main gate – done, weeding required regularly
 - b. Introduced Cyperus (a non-native papyrus-type rush) to be sprayed in Stonyfell Creek. Noted that spraying in the creek is difficult due to access and poses a potential risk to workers.
 - c. Spray Rice Millet, periwinkle, nasturtiums – not done in 2017 due to the weather conditions
 - d. Sparaxis in the triangle – 3 methods will be tried to control this, spray, de-head, dig out roots
 - e. Remove Plantains - ongoing
 - f. Plant 20 trees in lower park – native pines, Bursaria - successful
 - g. Keep removing Pentaschistis – steady progress
 - h. Tackle area between Stonyfell Creek and Stonyfell Road – difficult to access

due to fallen timber

- i. Revegetation along school southern boundary – soils have been compacted due to vehicle access to building site
- j. Protect/enhance Native *Pittosporum* near St Peter's Pre-school Centre on Hallett Road – now about 50 plants, probably suckers from the original plant(s)
- k. Selective revegetation of dominant species on heavy soils in West section of park – natural seeding is producing encouraging results
- l. Soursob spraying in marked plots by Bill using Roundup and a wetting agent. Encouraging results from the first year, only 10% soursobs left. Geoffrey suggested spraying only one half of a plot to see how long it takes for the soursobs to come back.

3. *Stonyfell Creek Restoration Project Report:*

The meeting reviewed the erosion control measures that have been installed. It was stated that because the full programme of works was not completed, existing works have been compromised. It was noted that as the barriers silt up, water escapes by going round the side, causing erosion.

In the short term, the plan is to manage the existing drop structures and manage weeds along the creek. Colin and James have been talking to Nadine at the NRM about the Stonyfell Creek, and hope to have a further meeting this year. The NRM is not considering Stonyfell Creek in isolation, but as part of the wider catchment.

4 *Feral animal control – foxes:*

It is the policy of DEWNR not to fumigate in metropolitan conservation parks, and to liaise with local councils about the fox problem. David will talk to Brent about this.

5 *Communication agreement with DEWNR.*

Geoffrey has sent a copy of the agreement to Brent during 2017. Minor updating required.

6. *Track management and maintenance:*

Two motions were proposed by Bill:

- a) That FFCP contact Parks management expressing our concern at the constant loosening by foot traffic, then loss, of the natural earth on the foot tracks in FCP. It is our desire to be actively involved in their rehabilitation, armouring/gravelling and drainage, and ongoing maintenance.
- b) That, following confirmation of Motion No. 1 from Parks management, FFCP apply for a Small Community Grant to buy 'Bluemetal Road base' and, using wheelbarrows, armour the relatively flat 'School East' path running parallel to the eastern boundary of SPSCG.

The reports were received and approved in principle by the meeting. David pointed out that the DEWNR has a Trails Officer. Representatives of the Friends can meet the Trails Officer to examine the Park and recommend action.

7. *Ranger's Report – David Heard.*

The email from Geoffrey to Brent Lores regarding the state of the clean of the access track has been received. The builders have done some more work, but it has not been checked yet.

David said that he would talk to the school regarding respect for the Park, and point out that access may not be available in the future. He suggested Geoffrey and James accompany him to the school.

It was stated that no topsoil would be brought in to cover the remains of the track as there was a great risk of bringing weeds in with it.

Discussions are continuing as to what use should be made of the bond money paid by the builder, assuming that it can be recovered. Revegetation consultant Wayne Brown is preparing a report on what action to take to restore the site. Geoffrey will liaise with Wayne and obtain a quote for costs which David may then submit to the builders.

Any other business:

1. A discussion was held about setting up a web page for the Friends. The consensus was that it would require a level of expertise and ongoing dedication, and would probably require help from outside the Friends group. The idea would be kept in mind for future consideration.
2. St. Peter's Girls' School have expressed a wish to create a scar tree as part of a reconciliation programme.
3. David reminded the meeting that DEWNR wants to recognise notable volunteers.
4. David pointed out that NRM have an OHS officer (Stephanie Cole) who we can liaise with for equipment, such as gloves, as well as poisons. She will also help, and pay for, organising contractors for hard to manage bushcare work.
5. Stephanie can arrange to have first aid boxes checked for expired products and resupplied. Stephanie will also pay for approved first aid courses.

Meeting closed: 9.25 pm. Our grateful thanks to Martin and Wendy for once again hosting our dinner meeting.



Bales of barley straw were laid across the newly bare builders' access track between Halett Road and the recently completed St Peters' College building site at the March 2018 working bee. This was done to reduce water movement and soil erosion (when the rains come). Note the excess rubble rocks which were removed from the track by hand and stockpiled at the ends of the bales.