



Friends of Ferguson Park



Newsletter No. 126 –October 2019

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

Park Working Bee
Dates 2019

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

Working Bees Update

June 2019

Geoffrey brought the new A frame "Ferguson Volunteers" sign which DEW organised, as well as gloves for group members and 5 litres of Glyphosate Bioactive.

Several members began to re-build the steps at the Stonyfell Creek (track) crossing. Weeding of the ever-present Sparaxis and Cape Tulip bulbs in The Triangle.

July 2019

Work on the steps at the Stonyfell Creek (track) crossing was completed. A patrol for Rice Millet along the boundary with St Peter's Girls' School, as well as Sparaxis and Cape Tulip weeding and clearing of dense Soursobs around the base of native plants (Lomandra's mainly).

August – September 2019

Contractors from Trees For Life (TFL) have once again been engaged by Adelaide & Mount Lofty Ranges Natural Resource Management (AMLR NRM) to spray weeds in the environs of Stonyfell Creek. Spraying was carried out on 29th August and follow-up work on 24th September, a total of 17 hours of work. Species targeted were similar to last season, namely Rice Millet, Nasturtium and Periwinkle. The extent of Nasturtium in the last two seasons has been greater than we have seen in past years. The plant has seeds that last for many years in the soil so it will not be easy to eradicate. The contractors also did cut and swab on some woody weeds, viz. Olive, Desert Ash and Castor Oil Plant.

Weeded around the Native Apricot patch in the corner of the Park adjacent to Hallett Road. More weeding of Sparaxis and Cape Tulip in The Triangle.

A happy 90th birthday to Margaret Preiss, a co-founder of Friends of Ferguson and still and active member!

October 2019

By our October meeting the effect of the TFL spraying was quite apparent and most of the Nasturtiums had died off. Our inspection of the site resulted in the removal of some more Rice Millet plants and Three-Cornered Garlic. Our thanks to Steph Cole, Volunteer Support Officer, AMLR NRM for organising and funding the TFL spraying. Of growing concern is the spread of an introduced Cyperus in Stonyfell Creek which will need to be spot sprayed when the creek is dry. We are also noticing an invasion by Typha, a native species that would not have naturally occurred in Stonyfell Creek. Plants and seed of Cyperus and Typha have been 'washed down' from upstream.

Information signs

In October two information signs were erected at The Triangle restoration site which is adjacent to the western boundary of the park (see text and photos included in the sign on Page 3). We have been removing targeted weed species from this site for over a decade and the concerted effort is really showing results. The main species being removed are Cape Tulip, Sparaxis and Plantain. Our October weeding session found far less plants of Cape Tulip with seed heads which is most encouraging.

The site is also our only known occurrence of *Muraltia* (African Furze) and several plants were removed (currently in flower so readily observed) and some potential young plants will be kept under observation. It is pleasing to see the large number of young native plants of various species dotted across the site. Some plants have been marked and were watered over summer (our thanks to Doug!).

Track restoration

No replanting was carried out on the St Peter's Track revegetation site this season due to the low rainfall in late winter and into spring. The dry summer of 2018-19 caused very few plants from the 2018 seeding to survive. It really demonstrates how 'hard' this scalped site is and how seasonally-dependent regeneration is.

Trail Bikes

Trail bikes are once again becoming a problem in the park. A member who lives adjacent to the park says he regularly sights bikes in the park. Jumps have been made on the track to the south of Ferguson Creek. This is an unfortunate development after a decade or so of no bike issues. We have let AMLR NRM know about the matter.

Park maintenance

Over winter we carried out several tasks on Park infrastructure. The steps on the eastern side of the ford across Ferguson Creek had fallen into disrepair. We replaced some timbers that had rotted and repositioned others. We also placed a new step on the western side of the ford.

In the upper part of the Park we installed two ironbark sleepers as a footrest for the Saddler memorial seat. This will prevent 'scalloping' of the ground in front of the seat and reduce erosion.

James Swanson



The beautifully restored step across Ferguson Creek.



Martin and Colin – hard at work!

THE TRIANGLE

This 1750 sq. m. area, defined by two paths and the western boundary of the Park, has been the subject of sustained care by volunteers over the last decade. Invasive weeds such as Sparaxis (Harlequin Flower), Cape Tulip, Muraltia (African Furze) and Plantain (shown left to right below) are being controlled whilst naturally occurring SA Blue Gum and Native Pine seedlings have been hand-watered over the summer months. Other species are also naturally regenerating.

Protecting and enhancing our natural habitat

