



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 2020

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

Working Bees Update

November 2019

Geoffrey brought two new signs to be installed in the Triangle. Our new ranger, Allira attended today and the DEW/Friends of Parks Engagement Charter was discussed before disbursing to do various tasks throughout the Park. This included the usual weed control and cut & swab of young Ash in Stonyfell Creek.

December 2019

The annual Christmas get-together was held after the working bee at Doug and Judy's house.

January 2020

An unseasonably cool summer morning and a small group assembled to see in the new year. Pentaschistis patrol was undertaken, as well as Ash patrol along Stonyfell Creek.

February 2020

It was the morning after a very good rain event in Adelaide. Our ranger Allira informed us she is moving to Kangaroo Island. Stephanie Cole is the new Senior Ranger for our region, however Allira's replacement has not been appointed as yet. Geoffrey has been approached by St Peters' Girls who want a project – he has suggested that they grow native grass seedlings to be planted in the Park.

Various tasks undertaken, including checking for erosion after the rain and clearing out the 'diversion drains' along walking tracks. Prickly wattles (*Acacia paradoxa*) were trimmed back along walking tracks to encourage people to not divert around them, thereby potentially widening/diverting existing tracks.

March 2020

Colin brought his chainsaw along and Red Gum saplings and seedlings were cut and swabbed in Stonyfell Creek in an effort to keep the channel clear of obstacles and thereby prevent erosion and undercutting of banks. Ash seedlings were also cut and swabbed in the creek – this is an ongoing issue due to the constant flow of water entering the creek through the SA Water pipe which comes from the Wattle Park Reservoir on Penfold Road. Young plants were watered in the Triangle – thanks to James for lugging the water from home!

The AGM was held after the working bee at Sarah's house and our new ranger, Peter Hannon attended. A very pleasant shared lunch was enjoyed by all and various topics were discussed, including:

- Soursob control (Bill Bainger);
- silt from the Boral quarry which accumulates in Stonyfell Creek and contributes to erosion (James Swanson);
- fox control options (Colin Harris);
- track maintenance (Bill Bainger);
- pressure from surrounding residents to reduce fuel loads (Peter Hannon);
- restoration of the St Peters Girls' builders track (Geoffrey Bishop); and

- the possibility of an interpretive/education trail through the Park (Judy Nicholas).

The full minutes of the 2020 AGM will be included in the next newsletter.

Walking track erosion

Bill continues to do a sterling effort to halt erosion along tracks. He is seeking support from FFCP members to join him in meeting with a State government minister, and a minister’s assistant. The purpose would be to:

- a) have the relevant Government department armour some paths in the Park urgently, and
- b) re-route those paths which are too heavily eroded to be successfully armoured.

The next step at this stage is to undertake a survey/audit of the Park walking tracks – this will be undertaken as part of the April working bee.

FFCP Membership

Just a reminder to all members that, in order to be covered by the relevant insurance, all volunteers who work in Ferguson must be paid up members. The current membership fee is \$10 per annum. Please make payment to ‘Friends of Ferguson Conservation Park’. Payment can be made direct to Geoffrey at a working bee or posted to:

Dr Geoffrey Bishop, Treasurer FFCP
 PO Box 194
 Uraidla SA 5142
OR
 Direct Debit: Commonwealth Bank Stirling
 BSB 065 144
 Account No. 10207598

And remember, new members are always welcome!



Colin clearing a fallen tree from Stonyfell Creek – March 2020.



One of the new information signs installed in the Triangle.