



Friends of Ferguson Park



Newsletter No. 131 – June 2021

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

Park Working Bee
Dates 2021

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

Working Bees Update

April – June 2021

Front gate plaque – Geoffrey has ordered a new (replacement) plaque and received \$500 from DEW towards its cost.

Rehabilitation of builder's track – there is still about \$3,000 of funds available for this project (St Peters Girls has this money). Tasks to be undertaken include direct seeding of grasses and planting of tubestock (low-medium shrubs).

Walking track rationalisation – Geoffrey has prepared a map of existing walking tracks within Ferguson, with the aim being to potentially close some of them.

The weather was still quite dry in April and May, however the bulb weeds (Cape Tulip and Sparaxis) were starting to appear by early June. Other weed control work included the hand-pulling and cut & swabbing of Ash in the creek and Pentaschistis patrol.

Two emerging weeds in Stonyfell Creek include Arum Lily and Agapanthus – their presence is probably due to the continual flow of water from the SA Water pipe.

Cape Tulip – a changing view

This letter was published in *The Register* on Tuesday 4 September 1928 and presents a continuing dilemma as to how different sectors of the community regard 'weeds' – things I prefer to call invasive species.

Cape Tulips

Sir – Probably a great number of your readers are unaware of a very beautiful sight at Burnside, which is caused by the hillside being covered with these flowers. One need only walk for 10 minutes toward the Waterfall Gully to get a splendid view of the scene. There are three colours – lemon, and light and deep salmon.

The effect challenges comparison with some of the famous flower colour beauty spots of well known foreign countries. In its own way this little flower is just as beautiful as almond blossom, even if it is a noxious weed. I recommend all lovers of Nature to see this lovely hillside while it is at its best. By those who motor, a very fine view will be obtained from the road to Uraidla [Greenhill Road], about a mile from Burnside. I am, Sir, etc. Sydney King

Well, Mr King, the views are still available, in fact the whole of the land that is now Greenhill Recreation Park is covered with the plant. It is non-palatable to most herbivores and toxic to horses so nothing kept the plant under control. As FFCP know only too well, it sets prolific amounts of seed and is extremely difficult to eradicate.

A comment on the above article by Colin Harris who spent his childhood at Burnside:

“I don’t know anything of the writer, but I’ve long suspected William Wyatt Senior of nearby *Kurralta* of being behind some of the key introduction to this locality, including Cape Tulip and French Lavender. By all accounts, he was a keen member of the Acclimatization Society and a sometime member of the Botanic Gardens Board. If he didn’t purposefully spread them it’s highly likely that they ‘jumped the fence’ from his garden – as kids we were acutely aware of all the paddocks around *Kurralta* being wall-to-wall Cape Tulip. It was so dense that you couldn’t run through them without being tripped-up, and effecting a drop-kick with a football was impossible... Samuel Davenport was doing the same sort of thing in Waterfall Gully which was on the northern side of his Beaumont land.”

Geoffrey Bishop

Editor’s note

Cape tulip is Declared under the Natural Resources Management Act 2004. As such, it is prohibited to move or sell plants or goods carrying plants or plant parts. The landholder is required, under the Act, to control plants.

St Peter’s Girls Environment Group project

Two sessions were held in May-June with girls from St Peter’s Girls Environment Group with 12 and 16 girls participating in the two sessions. Apart from some general comments about the park including sighting of Echidnas during the day by teacher Anna and introducing the girls to the use of photo-points, most of the time was spent relocating and retaking images from the photo-points set up in 1995.



The task was challenging as none of the original site marker posts remain but this added to the experience as it tested their observation skills. The girls worked in groups of 3-4 to relocate the positions from which the photographs were taken – no easy task. So far, they have located 8 of the 12 sites which is pretty good going. A few spots remain a mystery to me too. A deal of fun was had doing the work and debates occurred as to whether they were in the right place or not.

Next term we will try to locate the photograph for the remaining sites and then make observations about any apparent changes. This was already apparent at some sites where they couldn’t line up the same view as ‘that bush is in the way’ – well, it’s not in the earlier image.

Geoffrey Bishop

