



Friends of Ferguson Park



Newsletter No. 139 – February 2024

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

Park Working Bee
Dates 2024

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

Working Bees Update

October 2023 – January 2024

October – Bushcare contractor Robert Laurence was recently contracted to do some Ixia bulb control with the funding received from the Burnside Biodiversity Nursery. He also tackled some small outlier infestations of various bulb species with good results. A dedicated effort!

Small Community Grants – James relayed Bill's suggestions for next application and the need to choose which walking tracks to be upgraded.

St Peters Girls Environment Group weeding sessions. Hand-pulling of Sparaxis and Cape Tulip resulted in around 6.5kg of plants and bulbs.

Geoffrey noted that the dual naming of the Park is proceeding slowly.

November – The next submission to the Community Small Grants project has been submitted. The acquittal for the last grant is due by May 2024.

Jane and Bill have undertaken some revegetation along the newly renovated piece of track, as well as the planting of some water-loving species in Stonyfell Creek.

A SA Water pipe break at the top of Marble Terrace in October resulted in a lot of soil, gravel etc being deposited in Ferguson Creek. The track that was washed out as a result of this pipe burst has been repaired by SA Water and DEW (Flynn). Thanks to Boral for supplying the track surface material.

The steps across Ferguson Creek have been re-built by DEW, however the Friends' group's instructions/concerns do not appear to have been heeded. The location of the nearby orchid patch was buried as a result.

Geoffrey held his final session for the year with the St Peters Girls' Environment Group last week when *Austrostipa* seed was collected.

Jobs undertaken today included:

- Ash seedling patrol on Stonyfell Creek
- native grass seed collecting
- clearing out of track water diverters (on-going)
- weeding of Plantain in Ferguson Creek

December – A shared morning tea was enjoyed in the Park to celebrate the end of another year. Our new ranger, Orkun Atakan, came along and introduced himself to the group.

Today – Hand-pulling of Nasturtium seedlings which are proliferating along the Stonyfell Road boundary in a patch which had been previously sprayed.

January – Working bee cancelled due to forecast hot weather.

February – Three intrepid members attended on what proved to be a hot over 30-degree day. An hour was spent pulling Nasturtium at two sites near the Stonyfell Road edge of the Park. Although the site was still in the shade it quickly became too hot to continue. It has been a 'good' season for Nasturtium with the ongoing periods of rain resulting in successive germinations of seed remaining in the soil from past seasons. The Nasturtium has long been a problem plant in this section of the park and this season it has been

sprayed three times following successive germinations.

Removal of Perennial Veldt Grass (*Ehrharta calycina*) near the group meeting point continued and hand-weeding of Pussy-tail Grass (*Pentaschistis*) was undertaken along the track from the top of the stairs crossing to the patch near the bridge crossing. Growth has continued this season due to rain occurrences post-Spring and many plants were still in flower. A lot of immature plants were removed (they are difficult to detect when there are no flowering heads on the plants).

Grant update

A third grant under the Friends of Parks Small Grants Program was awarded to the Friends group in early December for planned further upgrading of walking paths in the Park. The grant of \$4,970 will allow us to continue this restoration work on previously identified priority sections of the path network. Our thanks to Bill and the project's team members for preparing the grant application. During the process, James Magarey, Manager of Boral Stonyfell Quarry, indicated that they are pleased to be able to continue to support the work by providing path material. Their contribution has enabled us to work on larger sections of path and not use a good part of the grant for purchasing path material. Boral's contribution and participation is much appreciated.

The final report for the completion of Grant No. 2 was submitted on 30th November 2023.

FFCP AGM and lunch

Our AGM and lunch will be held on Sunday 3rd March 2024, commencing at 1.45pm with the meeting to be held during the lunch. Gather from 12.30pm at the Nicholas' home located at 9 Rothesay Avenue, Hazelwood Park for our share-catering lunch. Our thanks to Doug and Judi for offering to host our meeting.

News of members

Our best wishes to Doug Nicholas who marked his 90th birthday late last year. Doug and Judi have been dedicated members of FFCP since 1995 and have contributed a great deal to our group. Congratulations!

Our thoughts are with Cyndy who is unwell and also James who is still experiencing back problems.

Geoffrey Bishop



Before and after Nasturtium pulling in February 2024. The plant in the background looks like the indigenous *Hardenbergia violacea* but is actually an introduced climber/scrambler – Moth Plant or Bladder Flower (*Araujia sericifera*), a perennial vine from South America. The name Bladder Flower comes from its fruit, not the flower. The fruit looks like a choko and contains numerous dark seeds. The plant's sap can be irritating so gloves are to be worn if pruning or removing plants.