

Newsletter May 2021



FRIENDS OF ANSTEY HILL



Formed 1988

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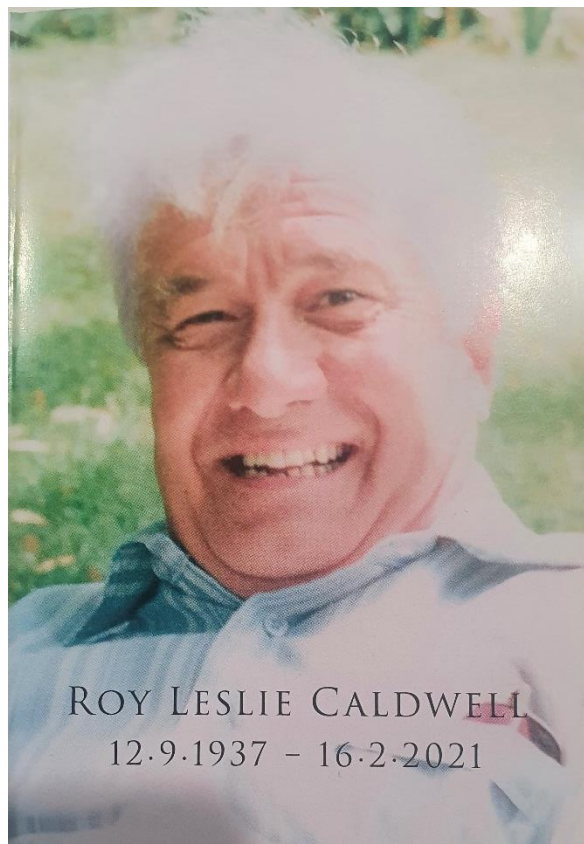
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Vale Roy Caldwell



ROY LESLIE CALDWELL
12.9.1937 - 16.2.2021

Co-founder of the Wednesday Bushcare Group.

Also known as the Water-Man

Roy Leslie Caldwell – Recollections from Rob Carthew

I first met Roy in 2013. At the time he was 75 and a very active worker and member at Anstey. I showed some interest in helping on a Wednesday morning. Roy was quick to welcome and encourage me and took the time to show me the ropes. I later learnt he had done this to most of the volunteers and he was well recognised as an excellent mentor with a huge knowledge of the flora and fauna of the park. Roy and Roger Collier began the Wednesday Bushcare group that continues to do huge amounts of valuable work in the park today. Roy's legacy includes helping to oversee the conversion of the open fields that had been a sheep run and the desolate areas ravaged by quarries and fires in the 80's turn into the wonderful tree covered landscape of today. Roy and Pat have been there on propagation days in the heat of December each year preparing hundreds of black pots, mixing the soil and planting seeds collected within the park into the top layers of each pot before placing them into white foam crates. Over the years they had taken endless numbers of the white foam crates of the black pots home to love and nurture as new growth sprung up over summer and grew into the seedlings, he helped plant in May and July. Of course, he was not the only one to take crates, but he was always one of the first in line and encouraging newbies like myself to take a crate as well.

Over the years I grew to know and understand this wonderful gentle gentleman. Often, we worked side by side on a Wednesday, me learning the ropes and Roy leading the way. I learnt about Ellis Cottage at the entrance to the park off Lower North east Road. Roy, various members and one of his sons had worked tirelessly to restore the building, painstakingly sourcing local wood to replace rotted timbers. Roy told me of old newspapers that had been used to help fill the mud and daub walls. Many of these were from the early 1900s and he could recall some of the stories printed on them. Whilst relaying the stone flooring they had found check sheets that were used by soldiers using the cottage whilst monitoring materials transported along North East road during the World War 2.

Many people knew and met Roy and his wife Pat as they cared for the wildlife around the Park. Roy and Pat placed many bowls in summer back out of view of the track and then kept them topped up with water. Their white station wagon signalled their presence and many people stopped for a friendly chat. If you knew the bowl locations you could watch from a distance during the day as birds would drink from them and cool themselves down. During the early morning and late in the day as the kangaroos and koalas became active, they could be seen drinking as well. Whilst the bowls became a point of contention with the Rangers, Roy and Pat had plenty of support from park users. Even today some walkers carry bottles of water and fill up ice cream containers etc around the park continuing Roy's legacy.

I visited Roy and Pat at their home on a number of occasions, always warmly welcomed and offered a drink and a freshly baked muffin. On some occasions a box of muffins was sent home to share with the family. I learnt of Roy living through the second World War, too young to fight but what an adventure it seemed to be. An airfield was close by so planes taking off and landing was a common sight. The airfield was also a target for the Luftwaffe so there was a scarier side to life. He told me about the life size wooden planes that were built. These acted in two key ways. They were a decoy for the Germans to waste their

bombs on and hence protect the real air force. They also made it appear as though the British and Allied forces had a larger air force than they really did.

Roy told me about he and Pat trying to find a place to rent after they married. They went from building to building. If the windows were blown out then they just kept going. Eventually they found an empty apartment. Britain had huge debts after the war and it took a long time for basic commodities to become available. The hand basin in their rental leaked from cracks so Roy found another one. When he undid the mounting holding the basin to the wall the neighbour came into complain as his hand basin had fallen off the wall. The bolts went right through the wall and held up a similar basin in the apartment next door. Whilst Pat and Roy enjoyed a good life together, they decided to emigrate to Australia to get even further ahead. Roy worked for the SA Gas Company until he retired.

Roy loved their home on Range Road South. It was not uncommon to see him up on the roof, or pottering around the yard. He would proudly show off the bird nests around the house and proudly point out the new chicks when they hatched. Sitting in the lounge was like looking out on a panoramic view across the hills to the east.

Roy was a true Environmentalist and his and Pat's legacy will live on.

From the AGM November 2020 President's Report

Although the last twelve months has been an unusual year for everyone with severe weather conditions, total fire ban days and the global pandemic, we have been fortunate enough to volunteer in Anstey Hill Recreation Park since restrictions were eased here in South Australia. Since then, volunteers were very keen to recommence work in the park. From 27th May to the 29th July for instance, a total of over two hundred- and fifty-hours work was carried out with an average number of Wednesday volunteers per morning being eleven. A special thank you to the Wednesday Bushcare session volunteers for all the productive in the park over the last twelve months. They work tirelessly to improve the health of the park with weed eradication, planting, and care of seedlings.

Areas of the park where volunteering work has been carried out include the Valley of the Friends, the valley adjacent to Boehm Walk and Newmans Track. A watering program, although a slow process, has resulted in the survival of many seedlings. Olive regrowth, boneseed, African Daisy and Cotton Bush have been removed from the Wednesday Loop Track from the quarry Track to Boehm Walk. Another project involves our Wednesday Bushcare group assisting in the removal of some old fences. The monthly morning tea back at the Friends Shed continues to be popular with the Bushcare volunteers.

The department has provided some training opportunities for park volunteers. In February this year, four FOAH volunteers attended a safe chemical handling workshop that included weed control options.

FOAH celebrated its 31st anniversary on the 14th November last year. Congratulations to all FOAH volunteers who have contributed so much over the years. Perusal of FOAH photos demonstrates the invaluable volunteering carried out by members with support from departmental staff.

We welcomed our new ranger Norman Schulze towards the end of last year after Pete Hannon assisted us as ranger for a short time. Norman is a valuable supporter of FOAH and always willing to assist whenever he can. As budget resources are stretched, we appreciate the dedication and

support the rangers and other departmental staff give us. We thank Steph Cole for her ongoing support and congratulate her on her appointment as Senior Ranger.

Propagation Day was held on Sunday 1st December last year at the Friends Shed. Thank you to Mary Lane for supervising and for her explanation of how to propagate the seedlings correctly. On behalf of Kersbrook Landcare group, Mary Lane offered several plants at no cost to FOAH. Thank you to the group and Mary for your generosity.

Preparation for Planting Day included digging approximately four hundred holes ready for the seedlings in four locations in the park. Our Planting Day was postponed for a few months due to restrictions in place at the time. Unfortunately, we could not invite many members to assist with planting. However, this year we were able to plant out all of the seedlings cared for by FOAH members. Nineteen members and their families enjoyed a morning of planting in various locations around the park. Most of the seedlings planted in 2019 have survived due to the care given by FOAH's Wednesday Bushcare session volunteers.

Through a DEW On-Park grant of \$5,000, contractor Josh Noble has successfully removed some exotic plants north of the Newmans Model Nursery ruins. These plants were becoming increasingly invasive spreading further into the park. Josh is also removing a significant patch of blackberry on a steep slope within the park with funds provided by a benefactor. The \$10,000 grant for 'Restoring the Degraded Water Gully Creek Line' has been finalised with a successful completion of the project by contractor Amanda Pearce. FOAH volunteers then planted seedlings along the creek line with funding from the project.

The wonderful financial support of FOAH members from their memberships and donations has enabled us to continue with project work in the park. Ridgehaven charity op shop ReGEN, continues to give us a substantial donation each quarter and we thank their volunteers and committee for their generosity.

Marnie Tiggemann and family have donated towards the purchase of a new bench seat for AHRP. The plaque on the seat will include the wording 'donated by ReGEN, FOAH past members and the Tiggemann family'. The location for the seat off Ridgetop Track has been approved by DEW.

The TTG National Trust 'Spring in the Garden' event in October last year provided another opportunity to promote FOAH and its activities. Our banner and table skirt were useful in attracting people to our stall. FOAH member Shane Meyer helped out on our stall and promoted his book 'The Hungry Honeyeater'. Shane donated part proceeds of the sale of his children's book to FOAH. Thank you to Marie, John, Christine and Judy for setting up and assisting on our stall.

I met with Ashley Fowler, Deputy Principal, Banksia Park International High School in November last year to discuss a potential project for students in 2020. Unfortunately, the school had to cancel the activities due to Covid restrictions. As we get back to some kind of normality, the school will continue to have an ongoing association with FOAH. Local kindergartens and the Tea Tree Gully Primary School are keen to be involved with preservation and conservation activities in the park. As mentioned in previous reports, FOAH encourage school students to take a sense of ownership of the areas where they have volunteered.

FOAH committee member David Prest has researched some colonial history related to the area. David advised that there are two sites along NE Road relating to a quarry, stone wall and kiln. David has also been researching information on the original Anstey Road. We look forward to reading David's articles in future newsletters. David expressed concern that the roof of the old Bakehouse within the park and abutting North East Road, is in urgent need of repair. DEW have advised that the bakehouse is a 'contributory' heritage place in the Tea Tree Gully Development Plan. Our ranger will liaise with the Duty Planner, Development Services regarding the unstable roof on the bakehouse.

The building sits within the old township of Steventon, now Tea Tree Gully. It is one of a number of historically significant sites within the Tea Tree Gully region, along with the heritage listed Model Nursery established by the Newman family within what is now AHRP.

Our FOAH Facebook page and website have proved very successful in engaging with and informing people about AHRP. A Facebook page, namely 'TTG What's Up!', is administered by Sonia Blackwell who interviewed me at AHRP to discuss the importance of the park to the region.

We had been asked to co-host next year's Friends of Parks Forum in Adelaide. The event was cancelled due to lack of preparation time followed by COVID-19 restrictions.

Our sincere thanks again to Keith Rendell who produced FOAH's newsletter. We will miss his 'way with words'.

Thank you to FOAH members who have supported me during my time as President. Jim and I will remain members of Friends of Anstey Hill and we wish the group all the best for the future.

Please consider volunteering on our committee or at our Wednesday Bushcare sessions.

Lea Crosby
November 2020

BUSHCARE REPORT November 2020

This is a summary of activities undertaken from 5th August 2020 to the 18th November:

- The main focus during this period has been on weed control at various locations in the park including,
 - Olive and blackberry at the "crusher" – near intersection of Boundary and Water Gully (A1-8)
 - Boneseed and olive uphill from Boundary (Gate 5) (A1-8)
 - Artichoke spraying near lookout (B2-3)
 - Boneseed and artichoke near gate 1 carpark – Little Quarry Loop (B4)
 - General weed eradication near gate 4 (C5-2)
 - Wigandia and other weed removal near ruins (C2)
 - Bridal creeper spraying and general weed removal on Wednesday Loop down from Boehm (B2-5)

Future activities include:

- Monitor new plantings and hand water if necessary – purchase larger tank for carrying water on trailer
- Further weed control in various locations including Water Gully and Boundary Tracks.
- Remove old fencing, particularly those which include barb wire strands.

Statistics for the Wednesday Bushcare Group from August 2020 to the 18th November

- 14 mornings worked
- Total of 261.75 hours
- Average number of hours per morning is 18.7
- Average number of workers per morning is 6.5



The glorious view north from The Tiggemann seat



Construction work on the seat

BUSHCARE REPORT February

This is a summary of activities undertaken from 25th November 2020 to the 3rd February 2021:

- The main focus during this period has been on weed control at various locations in the park including,
 - Principally olive at the Gun Emplacement (C4-2)
 - Principally olive in the area east of Ridgetop Track between the Lookout and Torture Hill Track working down from Ridgetop (C3-2)
 - Principally olive in the same area working up from Newmans Track
- In addition, we have undertaken watering of seedlings at the following locations,
 - The area around the Lookout
 - Near the Newman Nursery Ruins

Future activities include:

- Installation of the Park Bench

- Monitor new plantings and hand water if necessary
- Continue working in the area bounded by Newmans Track, Torture Hill Track and Ridgetop Track
- Maintenance in the Friend's Valley (between Silver Mine and Kaurana (B2-2))
- Clean up around crusher
- Remove old fencing, particularly those which include barb wire strands.

Statistics for the Wednesday Bushcare Group for this period:

- 9 mornings worked
- Total of 217 hours
- Average number of hours per morning is 24
- Average number of workers per morning is 8.3



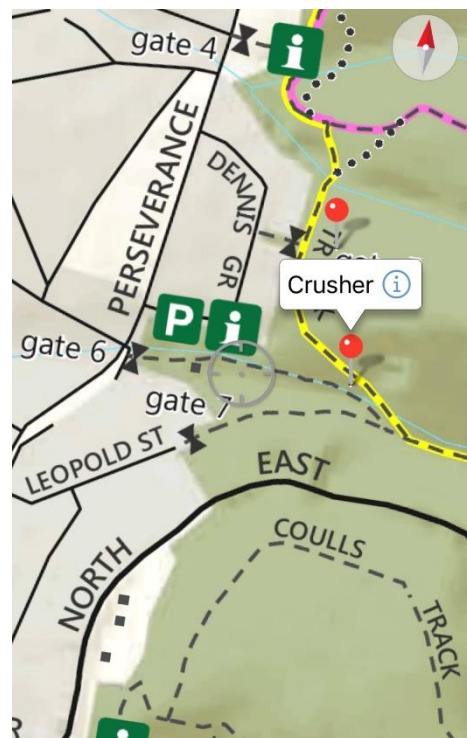
The uncleared site



3 of the 11 workers clearing the site



The cleared crusher



Eleven people worked for nearly 3 hours clearing around and below the crusher on one day to make it visible again.



Bushcare workers after the 3 hour marathon on the old crusher

BUSHCARE REPORT April

This is a summary of activities undertaken from 3rd February 2021 to 31st March 2021:

- The main focus during this period has been on weed control at various locations in the park including,
 - Principally olive in the area working up from Newmans Track (3-2)
 - Installation of the park bench and general tidy up around the area on Ellis Way (B3-1)
 - Blackberry, olive and other pest plants around the “crusher” (C5-4)
 - Wigandia and artichoke in the planting area adjacent the Newman ruins (C-2)
 - Wigandia and blackberry on the slope south of the Newman ruins (C-2)
- In addition, we have undertaken watering of seedlings at the following location,
 - The planting near the Newman ruins
 - Some rains in the early part of this period meant less watering was undertaken

Future activities include:

- Maintenance in the Friend’s Valley (between Silver Mine and Kurna (B2-2)
- Revisit crusher for any further clean up
- Preparing sites for Planting Day
- Remove old fencing, particularly those which include barb wire strands.

Statistics for the Wednesday Bushcare Group for this period:

- 9 mornings worked
- Total of 213 hours
- Average number of hours per morning is 24
- Average number of workers per morning is 8.4

Walking Track Issues at Anstey Hill Recreation Park

- **Background**

- At the last Committee Meeting of Friends of Anstey Hill an issue was raised about dangerous, slippery conditions on a number of tracks (primarily Wildflower, Ridgetop, Newmans and Torture Hill) in the Anstey Hill Recreation Park. To gain further insight into the issue we reached out to our followers on Facebook and received over 100 comments. We have provided the most relevant comments below. In addition, a number of people have sustained injuries on these tracks. This is also summarised below.

- **Discussion**

- The issue has been around for a while but has been exacerbated following recent upgrades to the tracks. We understand that the tracks are multiuse and must provide a good surface for emergency vehicles however the major users of the tracks are walkers. Many walkers, despite wearing good hiking boots and in some cases with walking poles, still find these tracks uneasy.
- What is most distressing is the number of injuries that have happened on these tracks ranging from abrasions and bruising to broken bones.
- We are not experts on the options for multiuse tracks but loose gravel on steep tracks is not a good option for walkers, particularly when there is no option in terms of walking to the side of the track.
- We hope that the Department can find an appropriate solution.

- **Injury Summary**

- 1. Broken foot in 2 places and dislocated – requires rehab and is having continued pain
- 2. Broken wrist requiring 2 surgeries and still not good
- 3. Torn ATFL ligament and damaged knee resulting in not being able to walk for weeks
- 4. Many minor injuries and bruising

- **Summary of Comments**

- *“Slipped 3 times on Newman’s Track and walking buddy twice. Paths are dangerous and were so much better before the upgrades.”*
- *“Wildflower and Ridgetop loose and slippery since the upgrade – won’t use those tracks when I have my daughter in the carrier as it’s too dangerous and that’s with proper hiking shoes.”*
- *“Use poles coming down those tracks or anywhere dodgy underfoot. They have saved me many times.”*
- *“I breathe a sigh of relief when I get to the bottom of Wildflower – still tricky even with boots 100% the white gravel was the worst upgrade they made. Wildflower and Ridgetop coming down has never been so bad. Good after the rain, but all chopped up again not long after. I have excellent shoes and still avoid coming down those tracks.”*
- *“You can see where walkers are avoiding hazards and going off-track, further broadening the trampled edges.”*
- *“Plan my trip and only go up those tracks and choose gentler as I’ve slipped on Wildflower.”*
- *“Have to walk on the western side coming down Torture to avoid the worst of the gravel. “*
- *“Those downhill tracks are very slippery – it’s safer to walk uphill. “*
- *“Fell while walking alone – scary as what if it had been a serious injury? “*
- *“Very nervous coming down Torture as almost lost my balance a few times. “*
- *“On Scout hike and leader slid a fair way on Torture – it has put me off a bit. “*

If you have a track issue, please let us know.

Propagation Day December 2020



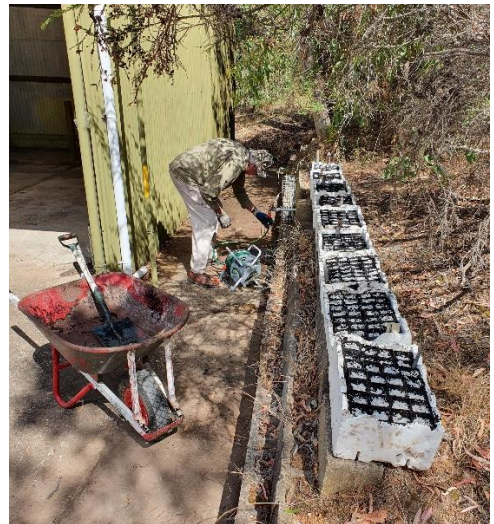
Preparing the soil mixture



Filling the black pots



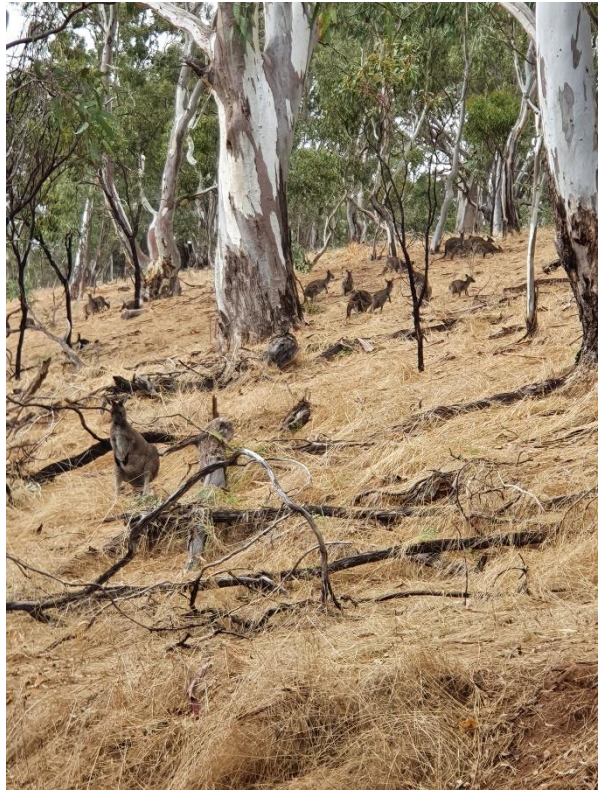
Placing seeds in the pots



Finished boxes of pots



Some of the Bushcare workers in the shed



Kangaroos in the Friends Valley one Wednesday morning



More of the Friends Valley

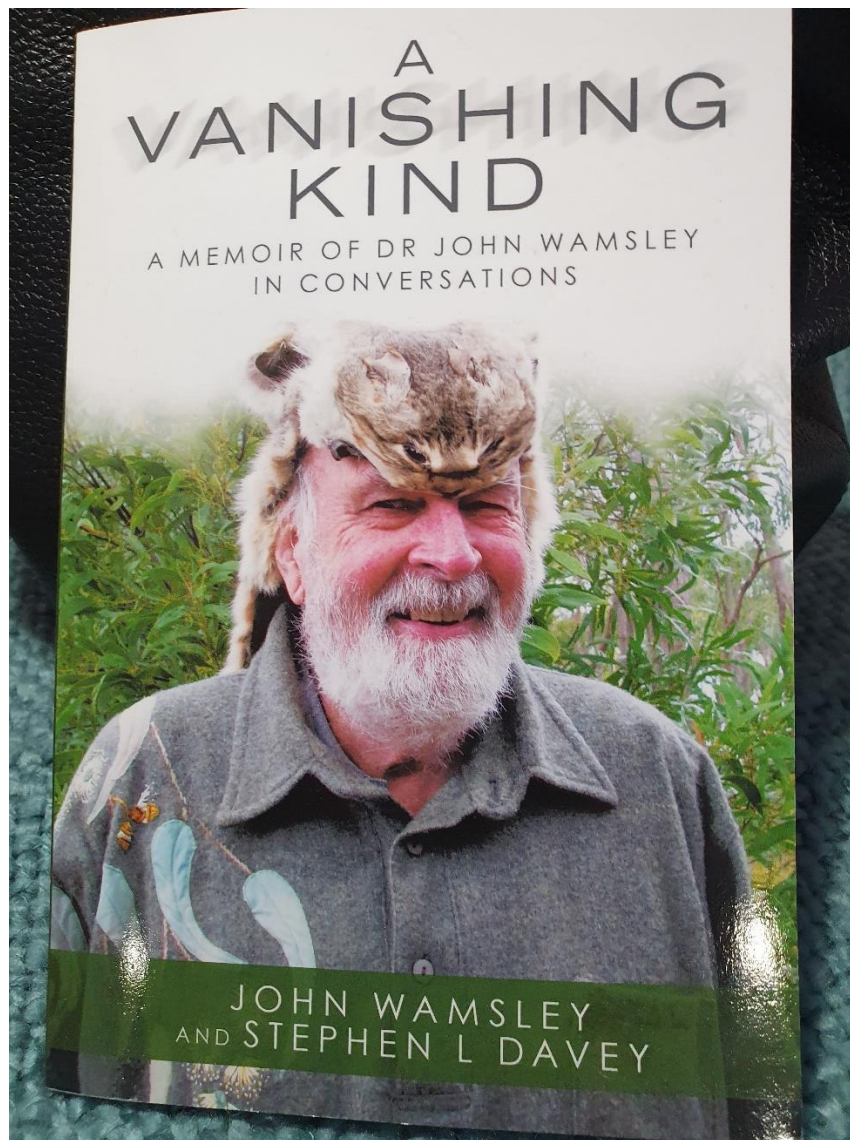


President Steve working to the west of the old Newmans Nursery.



Preparing for the Planting on June 6th at 9.30am





For a good read I recommend this book. John Wamsley has been a very controversial character, but his achievements have been huge. If you think this man had an easy upbringing, was well educated then you are in for a shock. How this man came to be a Mathematics Professor with limited education is truly remarkable. Thanks to him and fellow supporters he has been able to turn the tide on the loss of many species in Australia. The struggles and obstacles would have stopped most people in their tracks. Even now into his eighties this shy man who was sent home with his parents as a young child to die, but who overcame severe childhood illness is still working and volunteering in bushcare at the Friends of Scotts Creek.

I know the book is available at Warrawong Sanctuary where John also volunteers.

Rob Carthew