

1993

FRIENDS OF ARANDA BUSHLAND

Annual General Meeting February 22 1994

Report of Activities

The group began the year with an intensive campaign to remove St John's Wort from the perimeters of the Bushland and a few small infestations within the Bushland. We co-ordinated with the Cook parkcare group, City Parks and the Parks and Conservation Service to remove seed heads and, where appropriate, locate areas to be sprayed with weedicide. Sites for further spraying were again identified in November, both in the Bushland and on the perimeter.

General work parties were held in April and May. Work parties were held in September with the Conservation volunteers, and in October with the Community Service Order people.

The highlight of the year was our application for a grant to make a photographic record of Aranda Bushland flora. The first task was to prepare a constitution which reflected our aims of both maintaining and documenting the Bushland.

A grant of \$1,300 was received on Tuesday 2 September. This amount was approximately one third of the amount we applied for. As there were no constraints on how we should allocate the money, at a meeting on September 22 we agreed to spend the money on film and archival storage.

We began photographing in June, using film donated by the Parks and Conservation Service. The Bureau of Meteorology records indicate that winter in the A.C.T. was relatively mild, but rainfall was above average and not evenly distributed. The July rainfall was the highest on record.

Some whole species such as *Dianella tasmanica* were found to have a powdery infestation; others we felt were not as abundant as in previous years. We became very conscious of the vagaries of nature and the need to continue the project over several years.

Estelle Canning from the National Herbarium was generous of her time and came to the bushland to demonstrate specimen collection in July. This February she gave a 'hands on' demonstration of specimen mounting.

The group has photographed 134 specimens and identification by Estelle and David Jones (also of the National Herbarium) is three-quarters completed. Most of the specimens already photographed are not yet exhaustively photographed. That is, we have not yet reached the optimum situation of using one shot in twelve that we determined at the start of the project would give us the standard of excellence we wished to achieve.

We already have, however, some wonderful photographs that inspire us, and spur us on.

Geologist Robert Abell walked through the bush with us in August explaining the soil and rock formations. We were joined on the walk by Frank Ingwersen and Glen Wilson.

Events covered in other reports are our participation in Aranda Primary School Earth Fair, and the nomination of the Aranda Bushland for A.C.T. Heritage listing under section 56 of the Land (Planning and Environment) Act 1991.

We look forward to another busy year, adding to the one hundred and thirty specimens recorded on film, better informed and equipped for the task.

Hevily Soars