

1994

Friends of the Aranda Bushland Incorporated

Convenors report for the annual general meeting on Wednesday 16
November, 1994

Welcome! Our AGM has been bought forward three months to coincide with our financial year. A more practical arrangement for our financial affairs.

A series of sessions were held during the winter to mount our dried pressings in two collections. An A5 size field collection, and an A4 size herbarium collection, four folders of each have been completed so far. A critical aspect of the project has been the development of an information data base from which to create identification labels. This task is still in the development stage, but is well worth the time it is taking.

Again we have had unusual weather. July, August and September were the driest months recorded since 1870 when recording began. As a result of the dry, severe frosts also occurred, burning off new growth. The forest understorey is sparse, dry and flowering erratic. Rain which finally fell in October may insspire later flowering plants, specially those which could benefit from the lack of understorey competition.

Autumn weeding parties were held in March, two in April and in May. We participated in a planting morning with Aranda Primary School, and Clean-up Canberra Day. In May we also displayed our project at Aranda Primary School.

This Spring in September we participated in a Belconnen regeneration project, planting trees, had one work party and joined the Heritage Unit wwhen they made an official visit to the Eucalyptus pauciflora frost hollow in Smith's paddock.

Weeding was given a lower priority to enable us to concentrate on recording the flora. Future target areas are the south western edge of the bushland, and under the power lines. The Parks and Conservation Service have proposed we weed and poison over summer using a stronger mix of glyphosate. Extra precautions by way of glasses and masks would be required. I would like to raise this proposal under general business.

During this period the heavy load of dried timber in the Bushland in the South/West corner was drawn to the attention of the Parks and Conservation Service.

In the winter ACTEW removed trees from the vicinity of the power lines in the Bushland. It was agreed before hand that the contract would include a clause requiring all vehicle entering the Bushland to be hosed down to remove soil and weed seeds from the tyre treads.

The arrival of Patterson's curse in the Bushland on the track under the power line two hundred metres from Bindubi Street has been drawn to the attention of ACTEW and the Parks and Conservation Service.

The patch of Patterson's curse is now included in the North Side spraying program. The St John's Wort under the power line will also be resprayed this Spring.

Our project moves slowly forward as we draw it together. There is still much to be done but the form is clearly emerging which is satisfying.