

FRIENDS OF THE ARANDA BUSHLAND ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - FEBRUARY 19, 1997

Convener's Report - Marilyn Evans

Congratulate to everyone around the table for a major contribution to the documentation of the Aranda Bushland this year. We also undertook other activities, firstly to meet environmental demands, and secondly to maintain a profile with the groups who might support our grant application.

Work Parties

We had seven work parties. Work included cleaning up the Hawthorn area, and planting and weeding the Frost Hollow. A number of the work parties were highly successful. At the work party on June 26th about 12 C.S.O.s, aided by C.N.P. staff and machinery and F.O.A.B. cleaned up most of the Hawthorn patch. On December 7 a dozen horsepeople from Cook rode on the Aranda Bushland and were caught by the ranger working with us. The work party year ended with three days contract spraying of Hawthorn seedlings by C.N.P.

A.N.C.A./Save the Bush

In February the group contributed to article on landscape conservation in an urban area written by A.N.C.A. which was published in *Horticulture Australia*. A Save the Bush grant of \$10,000 for our Photography Project was awarded the group on September 25. In other business would like to discuss a fund raising event which would raise enough money to meet our day to day expenses.

Mapping Project

The mapping project got underway with a walk through the Bushland with Rob Douglas, Dave Rush of C.N.P and F.O.A.B. in February, to discuss the details and extent of the project. At our April meeting with Dave Rush. it was decided to include the snow gum area in project and Smith's paddock in bare detail. In August the task of mapping the Eucalypts and the location of dominant understorey plants was commenced.

The result is a set of maps which will provide the basis for future planning in the Aranda Bushland and Smith's Paddock, and information which will be published as part of the Field Guide.

We participated in Clean-up Canberra day

Photography Project

We have had regular photography sessions and meetings to review slides. By my calculation our ratio of photographs taken is nearly 1 in 8. Three hundred selected for publication out of a possible 2,400. Visitors to slide nights included Leon Horsnell, a member of the grants selection committee, who came to discuss the project and funding limitations, and Peter Riedyk from A.G.P.S. who discussed the printing quality of our slides.

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The Photography Project was displayed at the Community Environment Day in the Botanical Gardens in March, and at the Belconnen Town Centre Library and following that at the Woden Town Centre for Arbor Week.

The grant money will be used to pay for the slides and text to be prepared for printing. The printing cost will be met by pre-selling the Field Guide. Our investigations suggest this will be possible. With the exception of three plants we wish to rephotograph, the photography of plants we found in the Bushland during the time of the project is complete, identification and documentation are not far behind. The culmination of hours and hours of back room effort.

The next stages are, determining page layouts, text, pre-selling, and finally when printing costs can be met, arranging for printing.

Ginninderra Catchment Group

I began attending monthly meetings in June to keep informed and to promote our photography project. Arising from this I suggest we discuss in other business whether our position on representation still serves us well.

Greening Australia Arbor Week walk, "Frost hollow to forest" Sept 14

Incorporation

Discussion of our incorporation procedure with Christopher Mee of the Incorporation Office, Pam Macdonald and I, and later research of our documents. Yes all our membership did transfer to the incorporated group, - documentation tabled.

Volunteerism or responsible citizenship?

I attended a three day seminar conducted by the Volunteer Centre on volunteers with mainly C.N.P. staff and other Park Care people. As members of our community we contribute energy to maintaining our environment and provide a focus for environmental issues in our area. In November and December we were invited to contribute to discussions on mountain bike races in Black Mountain, the re-establishment of horse trails in the Aranda Bushland and the proposed John Dedman Parkway.

Colin Kelly featured in a winning photograph in the Canberra Times, which finally resulted in the relocation of the Mountain Bike race to the east of Mt. Majura. We prepared comments on 'Horse trails in the Aranda Bushland', For the C.N.P. Draft Management Plan, and on the "John Dedman Parkway study. Colin Adrian director of C.N.P. has promised our inclusion in any negotiations re horse trails.. The J.D.P. consultation is still in progress- documents available.

Christmas Gathering - good Christmas spirit.