

These notes were compiled by Pamela Macdonald from notices of meetings and events sent out by Marilyn Evans, attendance records of meetings and work parties, dated photographs and related diaries. Documented records of any other events not mentioned here would be a welcome addition.

1990

September 22nd 1990

Meeting called at 66 Bindaga Place, Aranda by Marilyn Evans (by letterboxing suburb) to address a perceived, but not actual, threat by grazing to bushland to the east of Bindubi Street and south of Aranda. Upon investigation it was confirmed that this Rural Lease was being managed under the lease rules of the time. The lessee encouraged responsible adults to walk in the leasehold land for their pleasure, but also to discourage youthful vandalism of fences, chopping down of small trees etc. The area had already been earmarked for future addition to Aranda Bushland.

Liaison with the ACT Parks and Conservation Service led to the formation of a park care group to help with weeding in the existing Aranda Bushland area to the west of Caswell Drive (vide Map A) Longterm objective was to conserve and rehabilitate the whole area enclosed by Caswell Drive, Bindubi Street and William Hovell Drive.

Immediate objectives included (a) mapping of plant locations

(b) formation of volunteer bushfire watch.

Those present : Convenor Marilyn Evans, Lew Mander, Bill White, Jean Geue, Peter Ormay, Roger Nicoll, S. Nicoll, Sandy Lolicato, Cathy Hughes, Keith Hyde, Pam Macdonald, Kim McKenzie, Robert Langdon.

October 6th 1990

Walk in Aranda Bushland with Rangers Ross Bennett and Mike Ivill

October 25th 1990. Submission to ITPA workshop by Marilyn Evans and Lew Mander on behalf of Friends of the Aranda Bushland

October 27th 1990

Beat the Bounds walk. From Wangara Street, including leasehold (with permission). Led by Peter Ormay.

November 11th, 1990.

Joint meeting with Friends of Mount Painter. FOMP group had been formed a few years earlier and was already involved in weed eradication, but importantly was also actively lobbying against John Dedman Parkway, and plans to sell off much open space. (Concern about proposal for open space to be kept at 4 hectares per 1000 population)

November 1990

Further submission on behalf of Friends of the Aranda Bushland re proposed John Dedman Parkway.

December 1990. 1st Saturday.

Training sessions with ranger Geoff Mason at O'Connor on the use of equipment, weed control, seed collection and propagation, These sessions cancelled as rangers were kept busy much of the month fighting bushfires (In one weekend Parks and Conservation Rangers called to assist with 15 fires).

1991

January 18th, 1991

Meeting to discuss input into the ACT House of Assembly Committee on the future leasehold status of rural land, chaired by Norm Jenson, especially regarding block 371.

March 26th, 1991

Lew Mander, on behalf of Friends of the Aranda Bushland, attends meeting about formation of Belconnen Community Council.

April 13th, 1991

Ranger Mike Ivill

Meeting at entrance to Aranda Bushland, corner of Wangara Street and Caswell Drive.

Ranger Mike Ivill to demonstrate pruning methods and provide group with an official tool kit. Woody weeds wild apple, hawthorn, cotoneaster.

Soil Conservation Zone/ Eucalyptus pauciflora area

Peter Ormay to lead weeding party. Permission given to cross the leased paddock to the soil conservation zone

April 14th, 1991.

Eucalyptus identification workshop, 9.30am Athllon Drive depot, led by Peter Ormay from the Plant Ecology (Conservation and Wildlife) Section.

May 4th, 1991

Ranger Peter Galvin

Activity – weeding under power lines.

June 22nd, 1991

Ranger Jeff Young

Trial winching out of pampas grass near Caswell Drive and Wangara Street. Tirfor hand winch used with wire cable to nearby eucalyptus. Bark was protected by using hammock mattress and snatchem strap. (vide video footage later transferred to DVD)

June, July 1991.

Lew Mander, Robert Langdon representing group in consultations relating to Draft Territory Plan.

July 13th, 1991

Rangers Tony Corrigan, Robert Johnson.

Activity Pampas grass removal next to Caswell Drive, rubbish removal.

August 1991

Progress with Draft constitution, and steady growth of membership.

August 22nd, 1991.

Activity. Winching out pampas grass south of Wargi Place and photographing method.

September 9th, 1991

Rangers Tony Corrigan, Robert Johnson.

Activity Rubbish collection, and cut and dab along watercourse.

September 11th, 1991

Publication in The Northern Chronicle of article, with photograph of pampas-winching, about the group's weeding activities, objectives, and contact phone number.

September 17th, 1991.

Letterbox drop by non-weeding member about dumping of garden waste in bushland, and spread of weeds.

October, 1991

Stall at the Belconnen Environment Fair. held at Margaret Timpson Park. Sale of plants indigenous to the local area, display of artworks derived from the bushland (Audrey Cureton's). Early discussions by those manning the stall about plant lists of the whole Aranda area, but especially of associated communities within that group, and how best to illustrate and disseminate the knowledge.

Spotlight Walk in Aranda Bushland to round off the day. Led by Peter Ormay.

1992

The leasehold block adjoining Bindubi Street added to the pre-existing Aranda Bushland earlier than originally scheduled.

March 1st, 1992

Participation by group, led by Robert Langdon, in Clean Up Australia Day.

April 4th. 1992

Ranger Graeme Simpson

First weeding party in the expanded Aranda Bushland.

Ranger opening gate to allow access for 4WD vehicles carrying people and equipment to the water courses in the southwest corner, near Bindubi Street., and adjoining the dense area of hawthorn infestation.

April 25th, 1992.(Anzac Day)

Chief Ranger Tony Brownlie.

Removal of Pinus radiata, hawthorn, and other woody weeds along southern border of bushland and near borrowpit near southern firetrail in western section of bushland..(Finneran's Road)

April 30th, 1992

Spotlight walk with Ross Bennett.

May 9th, 1992

Rangers Ross Bennett, Lance Bates.

Cut and dab of woody weeds along both sides of power line track, northeast corner of bushland.

June, 1992.

Submission by Friends of the Aranda Bushland group to the National Land Care Program for a grant to establish a photographic record of the flora of the Aranda Bushland, by photographing approximately 150 of the more representative species of the flora, and as well record plant associations.

June 27th, 1992.

Ranger Robert Johnson

Removal of *Pinus radiata* and *Acacia baileyana* from northeast corner of bushland, near pipeline road.

Presence of many beautiful fungi noted in southern gullies.

October 5th, 1992.

Ranger Jeff Young.

Cut and dab woody weeds under power line near pine plantation.

October 13th, 1992.

Intermittent activity most weekdays by individual members to cut and dab woody weed over northwest portion of Aranda Bushland.

October 31st, 1992

Ranger Jeff Young

Cut and dab large infestation of mature woody weeds along slope above southern fire trail, near central old fence line (Finneran's Road) Some pampas.

November 7th, 1992.

Ranger Mick Park.

Beginning of concentrated program of weeding dense hawthorn patch in southwest corner of bushland to try to reduce huge seed bank of woody weeds. (Change from Bradley sisters principle used up to then).

Morning and afternoon sessions with some weeders working both sessions Weeding started near lower Bindubi Street gate.

Conservation staff not present at many weeding sessions from this time, group provided with key to locked gates with first-aid kit, water and tools transported in group's 4WDs.

November 12th, 1992

Friends of the Aranda Bushland combined weeding of hawthorn seedlings with Aranda Junior Park Care Group. Convenor of adult group Marilyn Evans wore a Kelly green jacket to illustrate to the children the colour of most of the introduced weeds, after which they could spot weeds at a hundred paces, and had a very successful session.

November 14th, 1992.

Continuation of cut and dab, mainly hawthorn and briar, up to and along McDonald Creek (which arises on Mount Painter near the ruins of Donald McDonald's house at Round Hill - personal communication, Lyall Gillespie) Much use needed of cross-cut saw as hawthorn trunks very thick.

Growth along both sides of the creek too dense to walk through. Honeysuckle and white violet along creek flats.

Morning and afternoon sessions as above.

November 21st, 1992.

As above.

November 28th, 1992.

As above.

December 5th, 1992.

As above.

December 12th, 1992.

Work parties slightly smaller, as holiday season here, and weather hot, but still good progress.

December 15th, 1992. (Tuesday,)

Afternoon session only. Prickles a continuing problem.

December 19th, 1992 (Saturday)

One team weeded lightly all day.

1993

January 2nd, 1993 (Sunday)

One session only.

Colin Macdonald weeded intermittently through next two weeks.

February 27th, 28th, 1993

Ranger Darren Roso.

Joint weeding party with FOMP and other volunteers to try to reduce the spread of St John's wort in the

Wallaby grass south of Wybalena Grove. All seed heads and plants to be bagged and removed by Conservation staff.

March 7th, 1993.

Clean Up Australia Day.

Rubbish collected from Aranda Bushland.

March 8th, 1993.

Meeting called by Friends of the Aranda Bushland at the YMCA Community Centre in the Jamison centre at 7.30 to form the Aranda Bushland Documentation Project of the Friends of the Aranda Bushland and to consider and adopt a constitution for the management of the project.

(Various Draft Constitutions dated 14th, 21st and 23rd February, 1993)

March 22nd, 1993

Rodney Falconer (Bimberi Views) writes about St John's wort's unprecedented invasion into the region – “not only in neglected rural paddocks, roadsides and some urban open spaces, but has also colonised significant areas of Canberra Nature Park, including large swathes of Black Mountain.(The Chronicle.)

March 27th, 1993

Ranger Darren Roso.

Weeding Bindubi Street bike path and park boundary.

March 31st, 1993

Formal submission of Community Group Application 1993/1994 new project) for funding for the Documentation Project.

April 10th, 1993

Ranger Darren Roso.

Weeding McDonald Creek near underpass, both sides, moving west.

May 1st, 1993

Weeding honeysuckle, blackberry, (and one holly plant) near park boundary.

June 1993.

Start of photography for Documentation Project, using film donated by the Parks and Conservation Service.

Vide separate reports on Documentation Project, Funding of Incorporation of whole group, weather patterns etc.

August 14th, 1993

Geology Outing with Robert Abel, from BMR .Visitor Frank Ingwerson.

Ranger Geoff Young, About a dozen members.

August 31st, 1993.

Acceptance of \$1,300.00 from Save the Bush for Film processing and printing costs.

September 5th, 1993

Joint workparty, FOAB with Australian Conservation Volunteers. Near 688840mE 6094640mN.