

MEMBERS NEWSLETTER NO 82
March/April 2000



Hi Everyone,

All our February and March plantings are thriving due to the rain we have been having. This month we will be planting grasses in the biggest plantation, expanding the area planted last year.

My weekend helpers have completed whipper-snipping the smaller plantation. This week we move on to the triangular one below the dam.

We have successfully applied for an "Olympic" grant and will be planting from the Kathner St entrance up to the area burned in '98. We have been very fortunate that Rob de Costello has agreed to be our Olympian. Our first event will be in May, the next newsletter will come out early to inform you of our programme. We are also applying for a small grant so that we can replace trees and shrubs which didn't survive previous plantings.

Canberra Nature Park have applied for a grant to enable a consultant to monitor our vegetation and recommend actions we should take. Environment ACT have recently issued two publications; a proposed amendment to the Bushfire Fuel Management Plan and a Management Plan for CNP. Bruce Lindenmayer has loaned us the papers from the recent International Landcare Conference held in Melbourne. If anyone would like to borrow any of these please ask. We also have quite a lot of books and articles in our lending library if anyone wishes to come and browse.

The new walking trail designed by Gösta for an area which Chapman Primary School and Weston Cubs caretaker is ready except for the signposts. I have some brochures if anyone would like one.

The Ranger has expressed concern that the roots of the trees growing on the bank of the Kathner St dam could eventually break down the dam wall. Opinions are divided on whether this would be a good or a bad thing, I would be glad of more input.

Could members who have volunteered as caretakers on Mt Arawang please attack their thistles. It may all look good from down below but the summit is by no means weed free. Thank you to all volunteers who give in their volunteer sheets so promptly.

A message about the tree survey from Gösta:-

Please beware that some trees grow so fast that they gobble up the tags and nail within a few years unless there is about 15 mm between the bark and the tag, I have had to pull some of the tags further out, a process that may have to be repeated every few years.

Statistics for February & March :-		Feb.	March
Hours	On Ridge	198.30 (10 of these were whipper-snipping)	251.45(24w/s)
	Off Ridge	40.00	80.00
	Total	238.30	331.45
	Woody weeds cut & sprayed or dug	730	367
	Herbaceous weeds pulled or sprayed	19700	21900
	Trees and shrubs planted	160	136
	Herbaceous plants planted	0	0
	Grasses planted	61	37

Dates to Remember:

Sunday 16th April	Monthly working meeting 1.30 - 4pm Plantation 2 from Titheradge Pl. Follow the signs.
Mid-May	Olympic "Opening Ceremony" Kathner St. Date TBD
16th & 17th June	Art & Craft Show in Coolman Court
5th - 11th August	Olympic Landcare week. BIG planting day, date TBD.
Mondays, Fridays or weekends -	phone to see where we are and join us.

Cheers

Bess (62887536)