



Newsletter

Friends of Stirling Linear Park Inc.

Spring 2009

Community Grant

FSLP has received a Community Grant for Land Care, Coast Care and Water Care of \$5,000 for removal of *Watsonia* in Woorabinda Reserve. The grant will be supplemented by an amount of \$1,000 from the Friends of Stirling Linear Park Public Fund. The money will be used to employ specialist contractors to work in the large *Watsonia* infestation in the good bush to the south west of the bird hide by the lake. Work is expected to start shortly.

FSLP volunteers have made good progress in working in from the edges of this area of *Watsonia* in the last four years but do not have the resources to eradicate it. The grant-funded work will complement work on other large areas of *Watsonia* in Woorabinda undertaken by contractors working under the supervision of Mark Fagan of the Central Hills Green Web. The grant will also enable FSLP working bees to concentrate on targeting other smaller areas of *Watsonia* in Woorabinda.

Green Corps

A Green Corps team began working in SLP in April and will finish in September. The team of twelve, lead by Rachel Williams from Greening Australia, has spent an average of one day a week in SLP.

The team's main activities in the park have been:

- planting seedlings in the revegetation areas in Stirling Park and Madurta
- cutting and swabbing gorse in Stirling Park and blackberries in Woorabinda and

Stirling Park and cutting *Acacia longifolia* in Woorabinda

- weeding and planting the garden area below the Woorabinda buildings
- re-fencing and bridge renovation work ably supervised by Rod McBeath of AHC.

Our thanks to Joslyn van der Moolen, Secretary of the Friends of Mylor Parklands, for her efforts in obtaining the team and arranging its program. Besides SLP, it is working in Mylor, Aldgate Valley and other local areas.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

When: Tuesday, 20 October 2009, 6.30pm

Where: Woorabinda Environment Centre

Speaker: Merilyn Browne, 'Vision and voice: birds of Stirling Linear Park'

All welcome. Nibbles, tea and coffee provided

Barbecue facilities will be available after the meeting (please bring your own meat, salad and drinks).

SLP Advisory Committee

The Management Strategy Plan for Stirling Linear Park, adopted in mid 2006, provided for a Management Advisory Committee to make recommendations to Council. In line with the Plan, Stirling Linear Park Advisory Committee commenced meeting in the latter part of 2007.

The Advisory Committee's report is due to be submitted to Council. It is expected that the

report will subsequently be available for public comment. If this happens, it is possible that a follow-up newsletter will be circulated to members to advise of the content of the report.

Council recently sought expressions of interest in membership of a new Stirling Linear Park Advisory Committee.

Working Bee Report

Our working bees in the period since the previous Newsletter have continued our overall long-term strategy of working outwards from areas of good bush. Most working bees have been well attended, with the understandable exception of one very wet day.

So far this year we have concentrated on:

- Woorabinda - two working bees cutting and swabbing blackberries in the area between the lake and the railway line as a follow-up to work at the same time and place a year earlier. We have made good progress and have removed most of the medium and smaller blackberry patches. We hope that the remaining larger blackberry patches in the north of this area will be removed in work planned by Council. In addition, further working bees have concentrated on swabbing smaller patches of Watsonia.

The August working bee was too wet to cut and swab, so small broom, *Acacia longifolia* and other weeds were pulled.

- Madurta - one working bee pulling (again too wet to cut and swab) smaller Broom and other weeds in the south western end.
- Stirling Park - two working bees cutting and swabbing Gorse in areas on the western slopes. At the working bee in June we concentrated on gorse regrowth in the area adjacent to recent plantings at the southern end, enabling us to continue to replant this area.

As outlined in earlier Newsletters, we have not been scheduling working bees in Hender as a result of the progress made over a long period by Bob James in clearing a large proportion of the good bush of major weed threats. While there are still significant areas of weeds to be

cleared from Hender, these are mainly large infestation of weeds such as periwinkle that need to be worked on under Council supervision. The emphasis in the period up to and including October will be on Watsonia, during its active growth period, in recognition of the threat to good bush posed by the spread of this weed. In Woorabinda we will continue to concentrate on smaller, emerging areas of Watsonia and on working around the margins of larger areas while leaving the very large areas of Watsonia to be worked on as described under the article on the community grant.

In Madurta we will do follow-up work on removing Watsonia regrowth in the good bush area at the south western end after work done by Green Web contractors over the last three years and previous FSLP work.

In November we will continue our work on Gorse and other weeds on the western slope of Stirling Park while in December we will return to Woorabinda to work on a variety of weeds in areas of high quality bush.

A reminder that the Working Bee reminder notices are sent out by email to the 'regulars'. If you would like to join us on the third Sunday in the month at 10:00am, send your email to Bob James at bobjames@chariot.net.au and he will include you on the list of working bee reminder notices.

FUTURE WORKING BEES		
September 20	Woorabinda	Woorabinda Drive
October 18	Madurta	Madurta Avenue
November 15	Stirling Park	Branch Road
December 20	Woorabinda	Woorabinda Drive
Time: 10.00 am – 12 noon		

Mt Lofty Scout Group Revegetation Project

Extract from a report by Emma Howard

The Mt Lofty Scout Group has often been involved with the Stirling Linear Park, using it for walks and picnics in the younger age groups of scouting. As a token of our gratitude, I led members of the Twin Peaks Venturer Unit in helping to revegetate the Madurta reserve for future generations, as a project for my Environment Tape of the Queen's Scout Award.

The work we did in the Madurta Reserve was focussed around replanting the creek line, both the wetland area to the north and the slopes to the south. The project was completed over time, giving plants the opportunity to grow between plantings. Trees for life provided us with *Acacia pycnantha*, *Acacia myrtifolia* and *Leptospermum continentale* to be planted on the bank in July 2008. We then seeded some *Acacia retinodes* in summer, grew them over autumn and planted them in late May.

The first planting was held on 6th July 2008 and attended by Ashleigh, Eliza, Emma, David, Laura, Sean, Emile and Sharon, as well as Anne and Philip from the Friends of Stirling Linear Park. We planted from 9 am until 1 pm, and then returned to the scout hall for a cooked lunch. We were extremely lucky in that it did not rain until we had finished, although it had been threatening all day. This resulted in the plants being nicely watered. We worked faster than had been expected and planted all the plants that were available, and planted about 200 trees.

The seeding of the

plants took place on 31st January. It took approximately an hour, and was done at the scout hall on a Friday Night Meeting. We formed a production line, with some people filling tubes with soil, some making holes in the soil, putting seeds in these holes, and adding a layer of gravel. The seeds had had to be soaked the night before in preparation for the planting.

I grew these plants - approximately 100 - over autumn. This involved watering twice daily, keeping an eye out for weeds, and thinning and transplanting as was necessary. The plants grew very well and there were very few that needed to be transplanted, but we found some new tubes and transplanted into them so that we did not waste so many plants.

On Saturday 23rd May 2009, Laura, Jacob, Max, Nick, Paul, Roly, Philip, Anne and I planted the newly grown plants on the normally swampy area to the north of the creek. We did the planting in good time and were able to also plant a box of *Acacia myrtifolia* on the slope to the South. We were again very lucky with the weather as it rained the next day. We planted around 150 plants.

The team in action at Madurta



Woorabinda Cottage Demolition

Early this year FSLP was advised that Council would proceed with plans to demolish the cottage adjoining the Woorabinda Environment Centre. Consequently, we sought assurance that there were no plans to sell the land and that the cottage site would remain part of Stirling Linear Park.

This matter was raised as members of FSLP had concerns about the future of the cottage land, having taken action in the past to help prevent it being sold. Although we had not heard anything to indicate that Council had plans to sell the land, we sought this assurance as we considered that the cottage land should remain an integral part of Woorabinda and Stirling Linear Park.

We were also aware of a proposal to make the Woorabinda buildings a 'state of the art' environmental demonstration site and to build a new Environment Centre building at Woorabinda, presumably on the cottage site. At the same time, we thought that a constraint on such a proposal would be Council's ability to fund a building, even if grant or other external funding is sought.

Council's Director Corporate Services, Howard Lacey provided the following response:

"You will appreciate that as an officer of Council I am unable to give unequivocal guarantees, but I can advise that I am not aware of any plans to sell the Woorabinda Cottage site (noting that sales of Council's property assets are within my divisional responsibilities).

As you mentioned, we see this being an important gateway to Woorabinda Reserve and in the future I would hope we can ultimately establish a high tech environment centre to showcase clean technologies. But obviously this will be dependant on budgets & potentially grant funding, and of course will be subject to Council approval.

I have provided the same advice to a number of Councillors who are also interested in retaining the land for future recreational and environmental uses.

The reason we have elected to demolish the cottage is to avoid vandalism and safety concerns. The cottage was unfortunately past the point of economic restoration and we had no real use for it as a residence. Equally the cost of converting to offices was excessive.

Hope this answers your concerns."

Revegetation

About 800 seedlings have been planted in the revegetation areas in Stirling Park and Madurta over the last few months. This year the emphasis has been on backfilling existing plantings and for this reason the majority of the plantings have been of smaller sized plants such as *Acacias myrtifolia* and *pycnantha*, various *Leptospermums*

and *Dodonaeas*. Smaller numbers of larger plants such as *Acacia melanoxlyn* and *retinodes* were also planted.

Of the seedlings, about 700 were grown by Anne Hicks with a further 100 grown by Emma Howard as part of her work towards her Queen's Scout Award (see report, page 3).

Recent Fauna Sightings in Stirling Linear Park

The large male Kangaroo reported in Woorabinda and Hender in the previous four Newsletters has been recently seen in Woorabinda. Workers at the August working bee were delighted to see not just one but two kangaroos grazing nearby as they weeded.

Over the last year three Purple Swamp-hens have become permanent residents of the lake and surrounding areas. Recently there have been sightings of a few Hardheads, a Little Pied Cormorant, a Great Cormorant and a Grebe.

The Sacred Kingfishers seen over the last two years in Woorabinda, Hender and Madurta have not yet been observed by the writer this year but this may well be a case of not being in the right place at the right time.

Any other observations would be welcome for inclusion in future editions.



**Friends of Stirling Linear Park Committee
2007-08**

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Disclaimer: Contributors' views and opinions expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily the views of the editor, the committee or the general membership of the Friends of Stirling Linear Park Inc.

Contributors to this issue include Philip Hicks, Emma Howard and Merilyn Browne.

Affiliations

The Friends of Stirling Linear Park Inc. is a member of Friends of Parks Inc. We are also a registered Landcare Group and a member of both Greening Australia and Trees for Life.



Friends of Stirling Linear Park Membership application/renewal

I/we would like to join/renew membership of the Friends of Stirling Linear Park Inc. (strike out words not applicable)

\$.....membership fee is enclosed.

\$.....donation is included. (Donations of \$2.00 or more are tax-deductible. A separate receipt will be issued.)

Membership fee for both individuals and family:	
1 year.....	\$10.00
5 years.....	\$40.00

Name.....

Address.....

.....**Phone**.....

Email address for sending Newsletter.....

Please return to: Kathy Bowman, Friends of Stirling Linear Park Inc., 2 Bogaduck Road, Aldgate 5154