

ACT Red Hill Regenerators – President’s Annual Report 2016

It’s been a productive year on the reserve with increased numbers at our regular activities and exceptional work by some individuals working independently. It is pleasing to achieve an increased impact and this is particularly so when a lot of time has been used to maintain our engagement with the Federal Golf Club’s proposed housing development.

Highlights

- We continued to remove Cootamundra wattle on the northern slopes of Red Hill. The continuing need for this work underscores the potential for this plant to take over large areas of the reserve. We also removed verbascum and woody weeds.
- We warmly welcomed a few new members but it is the stalwarts who make up the majority at our monthly activities where we continue to attract a pleasing level of 10-20 for each activity. There were no weekday sessions due to other commitments but we hope to offer these again in 2017. In 8 group activities last financial year, we put in 364 hours, the same as last year, but that figure climbs to almost 1,000 hours when we add individuals working in addition to their Sunday activities. The increased hours this year reflect both a greater level of activity by many people, contributions by the Mt Mugga Scouts at our activities and more comprehensive recordings of hours by our Treasurer.
- Other activities last financial year included:
 - Two most-welcome days of work by the Green Army.
 - Mapping of erosion sites to enable a remediation program to be developed
 - Watering previous plantings from water cubes including an extra cube that has been installed on the ridge
 - Using the Collector App to map all the paths and trails on Red Hill in anticipation of a consolidated map being produced
 - Also using the Collector App to map over 60 rabbit warrens. This was used by the Parks and Conservation Service to engage a contractor to treat the warrens. Checking and remapping warrens will become a regular activity if rabbits are to be controlled.
 - Gaining a grant of \$750 from the Southern Area Catchment Group to enable us to produce a brochure showing paths, trails and places of interest.
- The Federal Golf Club continued to work with MBark, a development company, on the proposal to build a minimum of 120 3-bedroom houses and 2-bedroom apartments on their lease. We continue our position of opposing any housing development, as it will impact on the Red Hill reserve. However, we have ongoing discussions with Mbark and the golf club and we have appreciated their willingness to listen to our concerns and significantly adapt their plans to lessen the development’s impact. This is different from the many previous proposals but significant issues still remain, including for our Garran members. We would much prefer that the Club achieved its financial objectives without relying on the proposed development. We will keep working to achieve the best outcome for the reserve.

- Michael Mulvaney led a walk at the 2015 AGM from the Parliament House Lookout on Red Hill. This December, he led a wildflower walk behind Hughes. Both entertaining walks were well attended and greatly appreciated.
- Some individual contributions need to be recognised. Roy McDowell is being recognised as our 2016 Star Photographer. Roy takes some amazing nature photographs and these are regularly used in our online work. Roy also looks after seedlings after planting, contributes tubestock, works independently on the reserve and makes donations for the group's operation. Another individual contributor, Colin Pillner, has worked an amazing 275 hours on the reserve last financial year. We are most grateful for the work of Roy and Colin in particular.
- We continue to appreciate the hard work and other support provided by our shared ranger, Craig Wainright.
- We currently have 54 financial members and 155 members and friends on our group email list.

Volunteer hours

Activity	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16
Number of Sunday and mid-week Activities	11	13	12	8
Average number of participants	10	9	11	15.5
Total number of volunteer hours*	314	480	521	967

* These hours represent on-reserve work, education of members and the AGM for the financial year but not meetings, preparation of submissions, etc. The Green Army contributed another 126 hours in 2015/16. The government values volunteer hours at \$50 giving our contribution a value in the order of \$50,000.

My thanks again to all members for your time and effort in helping us achieve a better nature reserve. Thanks particularly to the other committee members: Michael Mulvaney, Paul Ratcliffe, Sue Ross, Andrew Zelnik and Miranda Gardner. The Committee's knowledge and commitment has ensured the Red Hill Regenerators continues to be effective in caring for the Reserve and making a significant contribution to its long-term wellbeing. In particular, thanks to:

- Michael Mulvaney who spends a lot of time working individually on the reserve and still provides an inspiring passion for us all.
- Paul Ratcliffe for his work as Treasurer and for many other contributions including the RHR website and Twitter account and his individual work on Red Hill.
- Sue Ross for her role as Secretary and supporting the group's work in so many ways including many hours of individual work on the reserve.
- The Red Hill rangers especially Ellyse Sheridan, our Parks and Conservation Service contact Philip Selmes, our shared Ranger, Craig Wainwright, the Southern ACT Catchment Group, especially Martine Franco, and many in the ACT government who work with us to achieve our objectives.

Ross Kingsland
 President, Red Hill Regenerators
 1 December 2016