

ACT Red Hill Regenerators – President’s Annual Report 2011-12

It’s been another active year for the Red Hill Regenerators (RHR) with some significant achievements.

Highlights

- A number of monthly weeding sessions – removing verbasicum and thistles near Davidson’s Trig and south of Tamar Street, Red Hill; removing Cootamundra wattle behind Glasgow Street in Hughes; and woody weed removal moving gradually eastward above Deakin towards Red Hill.
- The annual kangaroo counts that showed a significant increase again, this time to 884 kangaroos residing on the reserve and the golf course. A doubling in numbers in just two years means that this issue will have to be watched.
- The Red Hill trail and interpretation signs were finally completed after a number of years. RHR contributed \$5,000 towards the cost of this project.
- The nesting boxes established some years ago on various sections of the reserve were examined and recorded and a program of box checking was initiated with individuals each taking responsibility for a number of boxes.
- A two-day Chemcert training course was undertaken by a number of members to enable them to use the spray equipment.
- Further weed mapping in the reserve was undertaken by Michael Mulvaney and others and was finalised by Andrew Zelnik. Mapping of the trees in the area proposed for Embassy development was also undertaken by Michael and others.
- Michael led an interpretive walk in the reserve on 2 October 2011 and will be leading a Wildflower walk before the AGM on 4 November 2012.
- The removal from plans of the proposed roads running through the reserve. This included an extension of Carruthers Street connecting to the suburb of Red Hill. Thanks to Sue Ross for her work on this achievement.
- The creation of a Flickr site with Red Hill images by Paul Ratcliffe.
- Media coverage of the Red Hill Nature Reserve and our work including a Canberra Times feature story by Tim the Yowie Man, a Prime Possum story on nest boxes and interviews on ABC radio.

The Committee and members were involved in two major issues:

- The proposed construction of Embassies encompassing the full 15ha of the undeveloped section of the Federal Golf Club lease. This year, the National Capital Authority (NCA) removed this option from its list of possible Embassy sites,

acknowledging the community's concern over this issue. There was a range of meetings, reports and correspondence by the RHR executive and other members that helped achieve this outcome. A sincere thanks to all involved. Following the NCA decision, the President and Secretary met with the President of the Golf Club with the aim of maintaining a dialogue, particularly in relation to further developments proposed by the Club close to its club house;

- The proposed Centennial Trail that includes a path through the Red Hill Reserve. The RHR executive was involved in a number of meetings and correspondence about the proposal but despite expressing concerns about sensitive areas, when each planned route was produced, the path traversed some of the most secluded and important parts of the park. Representatives of several park care groups including RHR met with Chief Minister Katy Gallagher, who was most sympathetic to the concerns expressed. As a result of many representations, including those from RHR, the ACT government decided not to create any new paths for the Trail in nature reserves and this decision was warmly welcomed.

Volunteer hours

Activity	2011-12	2009-10	2008-09
Working bees	10	11	10
Average number of participants	9	10	12
Total number of volunteer hours*	533	439	346

* These hours represent on-reserve work but not meetings, preparation of submissions, etc.

My sincere thanks to all members for your time and effort in helping us achieve a better nature reserve. Thanks to the Executive of Michael Mulvaney, Paul Ratcliffe, Sue Ross and Andrew Zelnik. The Executive's wealth of experience and strong dedication has enabled this group to again be strong and productive over the last 12 months. Specifically, thanks to:

- Michael Mulvaney as our "guru", writer of submissions and authoritative reports, running our Sunday work and much more.
- Paul Ratcliffe for his work as Treasurer and for his continued maintenance of the excellent RHR website as well as his extensive work with the Red Hill Trail and the RHR Flickr site.
- Sue Ross for her role as Secretary, major conduit to many groups that RHR links with and supporting the group's work in many ways.
- Phillip Selmes, the retiring ACT Parkcare Coordinator for his support over many years.
- Miranda Gardner for looking after our interests in relation to the ACT government.
- The Red Hill rangers and others in the ACT government who work with us to achieve our objectives.

Ross Kingsland
President
Red Hill Regenerators
4 November 2012