

ACT Red Hill Regenerators – President’s Annual Report 2012-13

Red Hill Regenerators (RHR) has worked with energy on a number of fronts this year.

Highlights

- The monthly Sunday activities have been dominated by the work removing Cootamundra wattle on the northern slopes of Red Hill (above Mugga Way). The area up to the fence was cleared, including the hazard-reduction burn area close to the summit road. Other activities included the removal of woody weeds, thistles and verbasicum as well as the annual count of the Button Wrinklewort.
- A book, *Moments from Red Hill*, has just been published. It celebrates the flora and fauna on the Reserve, through poetry, line drawings and more. Michael Mulvaney initiated this project on behalf of the RHR. He published it locally through Belgrove Press and it is being sold for \$15 (Orders to mulvaney@netspeed.com.au). The proceeds from the sale of this book after costs will assist RHR with its work.
- We continue to gain new members who attend the monthly activity while the number attending these sessions has not changed. The placing of membership information signs by Paul Ratcliffe at entrances to the Reserve has proven to be productive and more signs will be placed other entrances.
- As part of the campaign last year to end the plans to build embassies on the undeveloped part of the Federal Golf Club lease, RHR wrote to Simon Corbell, Minister for the Environment and Sustainable Development, seeking the transfer of this 15 hectare area to the Red Hill Nature Reserve. This has been followed up a number of times with the Minister, Minister Shane Rattenbury and a number of government officers, including taking some of these officers on a guided walk of the area in question. Government activity includes discussions being undertaken with the Golf Club and inter-departmental meetings being held but no decision has been made as yet.
- Following the discontinuation of plans to build embassies on this part of the Golf Club lease, the RHR President has had a number of meetings with the President of the Club. These meetings have been cordial and constructive. Topics have included the future of the undeveloped section of the Club lease and the planned apartments/hotel developments near the Clubhouse.
- RHR hosted a meeting of the Parkcare and Landcare Coordinators on 6 August and a guided tour of the area was provided.
- Michael Mulvaney led a wildflower walk at the AGM on 4 November 2012 and will do so again at the 2013 AGM on 1 December 2013.
- An afternoon tea was held at the Red Hill Lookout café on 30 August. Fourteen people attended including Jasmine Foxlee, Parkcare Coordinator. This event was a

trial aimed to reach out to more people on the RHR mailing list and as a way of exchanging ideas and information. A number of ideas were generated that are being considered by the RHR Committee and further such meetings will be held in the future.

- The Centennial Trail was launched recently and the separate walking and bike paths through the Red Hill Reserve are the existing paths negotiated by RHR with the ACT government.
- We currently have 41 financial members and 103 members and friends on our group email list.

Volunteer hours

Activity	2011-12	2012-13
Number of Sunday Activities	10	11
Average number of participants	9	10
Total number of volunteer hours*	323	314

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

My thanks again to all members for your time and effort in helping us achieve a better nature reserve. Thanks particularly to the Committee of Michael Mulvaney, Paul Ratcliffe, Sue Ross, Andrew Zelnik, Miranda Gardner and Fred Knowler. The Committee's knowledge and commitment has ensured the RHR continues to be effective in caring for the Reserve and making a significant contribution to its long-term wellbeing. 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 RHR website and Twitter account in amongst other contributions.
- Sue Ross for her role as Secretary, major conduit to many groups that RHR links with and supporting the group's work in so many ways.
- 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
1 December 2013

