

ACT Red Hill Regenerators – President’s Annual Report 2013-14

Red Hill Regenerators (RHR) continues its work with energy on a number of fronts.

Highlights

- We continued removing Cootamundra wattle on the northern slopes of Red Hill (above Mugga Way) as well as woody weeds, thistles and verbascum in different areas of the reserve such as Davison Trig and behind Garran. We also spent an energetic session removing woody weeds from the first few rows of the Callistemon plantings near Red Hill summit. This grove of Callistemons was planted by Charles Weston and is a heritage site.
- I am please that we continue to gain new members who attend monthly activities. We are attracting a pleasing 10-15 people each month with an additional 5 or so at the weekday activities. Overall, we put in over 400 hours in 13 different activities. And you can see the difference – there are no longer any large blocks of woody weeds and in amongst the large pyrocanthus and cotoneasters, we are now removing smaller plants before they get established. There’s still no shortage of work but the committee is looking at where we go from here. We are likely this year to ask your help in measuring what weeds we have and where they are located so that we can share with you a plan of action. I think that we may be able to convince more people to join us if we can show them such a plan. We definitely want more participants sharing our passion so please help us grow the number of active members.
- We are maintaining a regular dialogue with the Federal Golf Club. The Club is still committed to a commercial development within their current footprint although the location for this changes from time to time. We are not supportive of a development on the boundary with the unused section of their lease as this would require fire control measures in high value woodland. It is pleasing that the ACT government has indicated that this unused section of the golf club lease is recognised for its environmental value and would not be approved for development. The golf club has acknowledged that this is the situation but we are keen to have this section formally made part of the Red Hill reserve to protect it in the longer term.
- The ACT government recently celebrated 25 years of ParkCare and Landcare in the ACT with a forum. It really was a wonderful opportunity to reflect on the growth and development of this movement that works so effectively as a community/government partnership. Michael Mulvaney was a founder of this group, which was amongst the first ParkCare groups and he is still a major driving force for the whole movement. The forum included a field activity on Red Hill on the topic of weeds and this has influenced our future planning. The forum was funded by the Parks and Conservation Service and the Environment and Planning Directorate. The event was so successful, it is hoped that such forums will be held every year or two in the future.

- Michael Mulvaney led a walk around the summit of Red Hill at the AGM on 1 November 2013 and will lead a walk at the 2014 AGM on 7 December 2014 from Rusden Street, Garran.
- An afternoon tea was again held at the Red Hill Lookout café on 13 March and we heard from Craig Wainwright, the ranger supporting ParkCare groups about his significant contribution to this reserve and his other work.
- The work is almost finalised on the Centennial Trail including from the first lookout on the summit road. Down the stairs from the lookout, one now comes to the Tardis, a new feature of the reserve, which has even been the site for a wedding recently. The Centennial Trail path at this point coincides with our signposted Red Hill Trail.
- We currently have 49 financial members and 122 members and friends on our group email list.

Volunteer hours

Activity	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14
Number of Activities	10	11	13
Average number of participants	9	10	9
Total number of volunteer hours*	323	314	480

* 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. In particular, thanks to:

- Michael Mulvaney who continues as our "guru".
- Paul Ratcliffe for his work as Treasurer and for the recent redevelopment of the starry new RHR website 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.
- The Red Hill rangers, our PCS contact Jasmine Foxlee, our shared Ranger, Craig Wainwright, and others in the ACT government who work with us to achieve our objectives.

Ross Kingsland
 President
 Red Hill Regenerators
 7 December 2014