

ACT Red Hill Regenerators – President’s Annual Report 2015

Red Hill Regenerators (RHR) has again this year used much of its time and energy addressing the threat posed by the Federal Golf Club’s plans to establish a housing development adjacent to the reserve. However, there has been a pleasing level of attendance at our working activities and events and we have achieved a great deal.

Highlights

- We removed Cootamundra wattle on the northern slopes of Red Hill. Having completed the lower half of the hill, we started on the upper half working from the summit carpark and trialled the frilling of large trees. At various locations, we removed woody weeds, thistles, blackberry shoots and focused on verbasicum in Spring. We again removed woody weeds from the heritage Callistemon plantings near Red Hill summit.
- We continue to gain new members and are still attracting a pleasing level of 10-15 for monthly activities but undertook fewer weekday sessions due to other commitments. In 12 group activities last financial year, we put in 363 hours but that figure climbs to 521 hours when we add individuals working in addition to their Sunday activities plus other activities by members of our group. This calendar year, we have taken part in:
 - two most welcome days of work by the Green Army in 2015
 - mapping of erosion sites to enable a remediation program to be developed
 - preparing for and taking part in the indigenous walk on Red Hill
 - tube stock planting and watering from water cube above Tamar Street
 - assisting the Hughes/Garran Woodland Group
 - various mappings and assessments.
- The indigenous walk was well attended and identified scar trees where implements had been made from the tree bark and important women’s places.
- The Federal Golf Club engaged a new developer with a proposal to build up to 150 3-bedroom houses and 2-bedroom apartments on their lease. We are opposed to any housing development as it will impact on the Red Hill reserve but we are particularly concerned about the current proposal to build up to 80 houses adjacent to the reserve alongside the entry road near the large pine trees. This development would impact greatly on plants and animals in the reserve, not least because this would require fire control measures including clearing a significant amount of vegetation in high value woodland on the golf club lease – and in the reserve! Despite our opposition to the proposed development, we are trying to communicate openly with the Club and we appreciated the opportunity provided by the Club to meet the new developer. We would like to maintain a working relationship with the Club even though we clearly have opposing views about this development. We hope the Club can achieve its financial objectives but without relying on the proposed development. We will keep working to achieve the best outcome for the reserve.
- Michael Mulvaney gave a talk about the history of Red Hill to the Canberra and District Historical Society.

- The ACT government held a second ParkCare and Landcare forum and it was a pleasure to hear about the amazing work of our counterparts in other ACT reserves – we are not alone in our passion!
- Michael Mulvaney led a walk at the 2014 AGM and will again lead a walk at the AGM on 6 December 2015 from the Parliament House Lookout on Red Hill.
- A donation by a ‘friend’ of the group enabled 11 Allocasuarinas to be planted.
- Our shared ranger, Craig Wainright, has been made permanent in his position. He worked many hours on a variety of tasks on Red Hill including transporting Acacias that we had cut down and placing them around plantings to reduce the number eaten and trampled by kangaroos.
- We made representations to the ACT government about the completion of the path down the hill from the Parliament House lookout and also about the steep section of the Centenary Trail south of the summit towards Davison Trig.
- We currently have 54 financial members and 155 members and friends on our group email list.

Volunteer hours

Activity	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15
Number of Sunday and mid-week Activities	10	11	13	12
Average number of participants	9	10	9	11
Total number of volunteer hours*	323	314	480	521

* These hours represent on-reserve work and education of members for the financial year 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 unchanged committee from the previous year. Other committee members are 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 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, our PCS contact Jasmine Foxlee and 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
 6 December 2015