

Working Bee Report – December 2010

The working bee for this month was at the Callitris site on the escarpment on Brimbank council land. Simon Heyes the new Environment officer for the council met Terry, Nancy, Ian Smith, Neil, Maelor, Kevin and Claude outside the office as it was locked so we couldn't enjoy our early morning cuppa.

We filled the cars with tools for pruning weeds and headed down through Costa's to the edge of the park next to Sydenham Park, and walked through the park that has been sprayed for weeds prior to seeding of native grasses and plants.

We had not been to the site for a couple of years but generally the site is looking very good with only small boxthorn plants resprouting and lots of native grasses and other herbs re-establishing themselves.



Ian, Simon, Kevin, Neil and Claude

Claude and I headed down to look at the other two sites and the first one is looking good as well. On careful observation

Claude found that the two existing trees were in a line with two or three other trees that are now just stumps and about the same distance apart. Were they planted or is it just a coincidence?



The second Callitris plot

The furthest site with one lonely old Callitris was almost dead when I last looked and it still only has about 10% foliage on one branch, but it was looking lush and green, although its days must be numbered.



Old Callitris near creek

Claude took an excursion down to the creek which was masquerading as a river with huge piles of dead willows piled up

against the Red Gums in the shallows of the water.



Claude and debris beside creek

Meanwhile the rest of the crew had been busy removing boxthorn and Patersons Curse which is establishing itself in the plot.



Looking up to first Callitris plot

By 11.30 we had finished and started to head back but detoured to look at the plots we part weeded last month.

The annual weeds are gradually dying off but the Phalaris grass is still chest high and makes it hard to even find the plots.



Who's hiding in the grass?



Weeded and unweeded plot

After a quick inspection we headed back to the office where Robert Irvine was cleaning up and enjoying a beer left over from the AGM. After a chat we thought about a BBQ lunch and so went round to the office to find Brendan on duty. Brendan apologised for getting the dates mixed up and missing the AGM but also went on to say he has had a health scare with his heart and has to give up smoking and drinking.

Brendan opened the room to get out the new BBQ and Nancy and I got it out only to find no one else had brought any meat so we packed it back up and after wishing each other a Merry Christmas we headed off home.