

For the first time in what must be a VERY long time, yesterday we had a working bee and nobody brought a camera! So you'll just have to imagine what it was like on the banks of Jacksons Creek on what was a splendid winter day

There were literally only a handful of us present – Maelor, Robert I, George, Kevin and me. Terry had been shopping again so we had some brand spanking new mattocks to work with. Robert set about painting their handles bright pink to hopefully make them difficult to lose out there in the park.

We decided to spend our day finishing off the plantings that started last month at Costas' Block. Robert hitched a ride to Costas with Hayden and the rest of us followed on foot. Keen-eyed Kevin spotted a fox on top of the escarpment. The mild summer and good rainfall has been very kind to our recent plantings at Costas. The River Red Gums by the creek and the Hopbushes up the gully are doing particularly well so Robert and Maelor decided to risk removing some of the wire frames and moving them to more vulnerable plants. We are hopeful that the 'roos are finding enough to eat elsewhere to leave our plants alone. Meanwhile Kevin and George busied themselves planting and tidying up the one fenced-off patch we set up last year. I picked up the tray of *Bursaria spinosa* and began planting them along the creek.

It was just a really nice relaxing morning's work, one of the highlights being a probable platypus sighting by Maelor. (It seems that no matter how much time I spend gazing at that stretch of creek I am destined not to see one, but now both Robert and Maelor have, so we know they're there).

By 12:30 we stopped for lunch. But Robert couldn't sit still for too long. Proclaiming himself to be "smarter than a kangaroo" he decided to create a Boxthorn obstacle course along the most obvious kangaroo tracks by the creek. I only hope that when the 'roos detour around them it doesn't come at the expense of my tray of just-planted Bursarias!

Before I sign off, I should mention that it was brought to our attention that FOOPs have a facebook page (<http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=33014630468>) apparently established through the Parks Vic website. (<http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=33014630468#!/ParksVictoria>) It is somewhat disheartening to note that we have more "cyber-friends" than we do regular attendees at working bees. Make of that what you will. Never-the-less, good progress is being made at Costas and I encourage everyone to get along to our next working bee and see what just a little bit of hard work and persistence can achieve!