

Working Bee Report – Saturday 23rd March 2013 Neil Duncan

The park was still locked when I arrived shortly after 9am but as I got out of the car to unlock the gates Robert Irvine drove up.

We leisurely got the gear for the day prepared expecting a rush of FOOPers but by 20 past 9 realised it was not going to happen. We loaded the gear into Robert's car and headed down to the ford.

The creek was still flowing swiftly but the tops of most of the rocks were exposed so we were able to get across the creek to the old homestead and the patch of aloes.

The patch didn't look too daunting – a couple of hours should clear it up!

A couple of hours later – admittedly working at a casual rather than speedy pace, there was little difference to be seen.

It was pleasant working in the shade of the big Morton Bay Fig as it would have been quite hot in the full sun.

It was hard to decide whether to remove the new plants that were spreading out from the main patch or remove the older plants from the middle as they produce most of the flowering stalks that produce the seed that would have produced the young plants.

In the end it didn't really matter as we made so little impression (although we did fill six bags). We could have six more working bees and still not have it cleared.

Robert filled me in on his recent adventures bushwalking in the south of Tasmania, as well as giving me a report on the progress of Kevin Jones who is now convalescing at home although eating and speaking are still difficult.

I had to leave at lunchtime as I was going on a boat tour of the Port of Melbourne in the afternoon so Robert decided to call it a day as well.



Robert working his way through the Aloes



Working in the shade of the Moreton Bay Fig

Once we remove the Aloes there are plenty of boxthorn to remove as well as other weeds!

Next Working Bee April 27th again working near the old homestead.

