

## **FOOPS Working Bee Report – May 2013** (Neil Duncan)

It was a small group of four - Robert Irvine, Claude, Terry and myself that loaded Robert's car with the tools for the day as we headed down to near Rosette Rock to do our first planting for the year.

Robert had picked up the plants from Ian Taylor who has had a huge banner prepared for our working bees featuring the new logo Ian designed.



**Working bee banner – impressive!**

The ground was bone dry and hard but the mattocks made the holes with a bit of effort and then it was just a matter of planting and watering. Getting the water was not that easy as you walked through the grass to the waist high patch of weeds then through and under the Bottlebrushes to finally scoop some water out of the creek.

We made steady progress using the old frames we had removed from Red Gum Flat but at 11am Terry had to go and Claude decided to go as well.



### **Terry, Claude and Robert busy planting**

Robert and I continued planting and as visitors passed Robert invited them to come and have a go. To our surprise a father and two kids said yes and set to with the mattock. No sooner had they started and another family came along and at Robert's invitation they too started planting.



### **Dad digs the holes but the kids planted the shrubs**



**Shrubs planted and wire frames in place – while Dad gets his camera, the camera shy son runs away!**



## **Second family hard at work**

The kids really enjoyed the experience and who knows they may be the future of the FOOPS group.

It would also be interesting to know if Ian's banner had any influence in making people aware there was a working bee taking place and more prepared to give a hand.

At this stage we had used all our recycled frames and as it was close to lunch time we moved back to the previous plantings from last year to fill in any frames without plants. There were remarkably few without at least one survivor but some had been flattened – the kangaroos must think they make a good bed! We filled in some gaps and stood up the frames by which time it was lunchtime and I had to head off leaving Robert to continue the planting after lunch.

Hopefully there will be some decent rains in the near future as without supplementary watering the plants will soon dry out as the ground is so dry.



**Next Working Bee**

**Saturday June 22<sup>nd</sup>**

**Planting with Brimbank Council in Sydenham Park**