

# Working Bee October 25<sup>th</sup> 2014

Quite a pleasant day for our October working bee, the plan was to pay our yearly visit to the St Albans rail reserve however Jim Robinson from Greening Australia had dropped off some 800 casuarinas in Hiko tubes at the Friends Shed that were part of the government's 2 million trees project 400 of which were earmarked for Holden Flora Reserve.



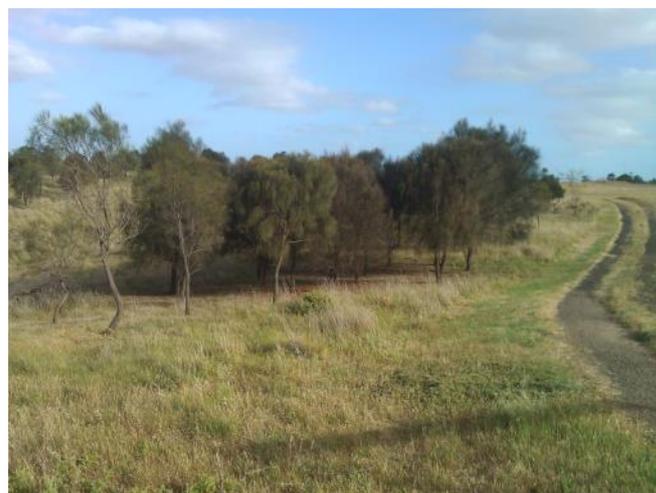
They were supposed to be delivered two months ago when Greening Australia with contractors put in 1000's of plants of various species across the creek at two sites near the power line but the sheoaks were far too small.



It's a harsh environment up there with escarpment on three sides and many kangaroos so without guards and follow up watering their chances of survival will be close to zero.

Anyhow, what to do with 400 sheoaks? Ian Taylor suggested that being so small and late in the season "save time and effort, throw them in the bin" but Jim although also not confident of their success was keen to come out with FOOPs and plant them.

I picked an area that was easy to get to off the track that runs behind the Friends shed.



I met up with Jim and we hooked up the water tanker to his 4wd and loaded up my Ute with plants, tools, guards and stakes.



Maelor and Robert

Soon after Maelor, Claude and Robert Irvine arrived.



We made good progress even though the ground was quite hard.

Claude went for a walk off the left hand side of the track and reported there were still some plants there; they have just been mowed over.



Jim Robinson looks up for the camera. And then gets straight back to work.



I came back a week or so later to check on them and found that a few had not made it, the ground was rock hard.



Soon Martha Ragg from Brimbank Council came by to lend a hand and Claude and I went to collect the BBQ from VC where we had the committee meeting the night before.



I then had to go to fulfil Grandparent duties.

By the end of the day over a hundred plants were put in.



Before I left I watered the remaining tube stock in the compound.

It's a shame that big projects like the 2 million trees are not better organized. Being underfunded with not enough guards and stakes and no plans for follow up watering it would seem that boxes just need to be ticked.



Casuarinas in the park like so many other areas are not regenerating and there are a few theories around as to why, from seed distribution to genetic quality. Jim says what we have here at Organ Pipes are in fact quite a good.

Anyhow we'll see how these new plantings fare.

Next Working bee November 22<sup>nd</sup>.

