

Working bee December 12th 2015

By Terry Lane

This was going to be our last working bee for the year; I arrived to find Sarah Giacobbe from Delahey waiting at the Friends Shed.

Sarah has been working in Brimbank Park with the Green Army and I met her and her team at OP's whilst we were doing Sugar Glider monitoring. She is keen to get involved with all the activities that we do at OP's and is looking at a future career in ecology and tourism.

Soon Robert Irvine, Maelor, Claude and Neil arrived and we quickly loaded the Ute with rolls of fencing wire and star pickets to put tree frames around the plantings down at Costas Block.



Sarah Giacobbe

“Costas Block” is an area south east of the park and once owned by Mrs Costa a councillor with the then Keilor Council. The road authority purchased the land to put in the freeway and it became part of the Organ Pipes National Park.



The block then was a weed infested rubbish dump.





But with work from the Friends Group, rangers and contractors the area now is quite a pleasant part of the park to visit.



Maelor and Neil.



Looking upstream



Looking Downstream.

We rolled out the wire and set about making the frames.



Robert whacks in a star picket.



Claude secures a large frame.

This is our tried and proven method for success in keeping the roos from nibbling.

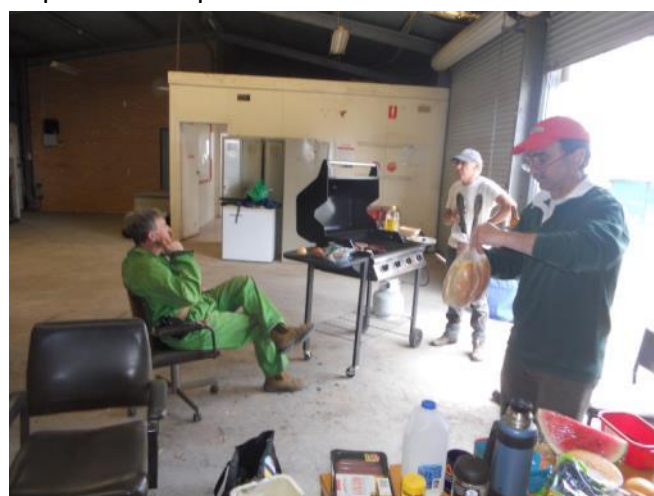


Time consuming to set up but these frames will last forever, and when the tree is a couple of metres high we can simply slide it over the top to place on another plant.



Time for a cuppa.

After another half hour we headed back to the depot to fire up the BBQ



Well! Another year over and quite a productive one at that, many thousands of plants were put in for the 20 million Trees project so that next year we will only be weeding & making up tree frames. Contractors will remove heavy rubbish from the gully's and after a burn in the area D1 (the pink section on the map) direct seeding will take place. What we do lack is manpower; with some 40 FOOPs members it would be great to see some old (and new) faces at the monthly working bees. I will send out in January the work schedule and dates for next year.

On behalf of the Friends of Organ Pipes National Park may you have a Merry Christmas and a safe and happy New Year.



Terry,