

Working Bee 27th August 2016

By Terry Lane

Robert Irvine and I arrived at the park just before 9am to find a pile of flooring boards had been dumped just outside the main gates.



Overnight dumping continues to be a problem here at OP's.

Today we were going to remove more rabbit proof fencing and star pickets that were put in many years ago. Now that rabbits are no longer a major problem we have been reusing the wire making up large tree frames to deter kangaroos from new plantings.

Soon Deb, Doug, Maelor, George, Flo, Neil and Claude turned up and we loaded up previously made up frames and tools onto my Ute and set off.



First stop was the area that CVA helped plant a couple of months ago and we set about putting frames around the plastic tree guards.



After an hour or so we moved up to the escarpment and started on the fence removal.



Robert and Doug



Another hour of work and we had taken out about 50metres of fencing so it was time for a cuppa.

We then decided to walk over to the Callitris site in Sydenham Park as it has been a few years since we have paid a visit.



I believe this is the most southerly of the Callitris range and those at the Organ Pipes have come from these remnant trees.

It's a very harsh exposed environment here, windy, rocky and dry and these plants really do it tough so it was good to see young uns doing so well.



It was getting on for lunchtime so we headed back to base for the usual BBQ lunch.



Doug and I then went down to the Pump Shed Ford to take water samples for Melbourne Waters Water Watch Program.



I have taken samples here every month since 2004 looking at pH, EC, temperature, turbidity, phosphate and ammonia levels and dissolved oxygen concentrations.

Twice a year during spring and autumn we do macro invertebrate surveys.



Next month's working bee on September 24th we will be joined by 15 members of the 1st Taylors Lakes Scouts looking to do community service for one of their badges.

And don't forget our AGM this Friday 9th September 7pm at the VC.