

BCA Education and Revegetation Meeting

Date: Tuesday 28th July

Time: 4:00pm

Location: UAHS STEM Centre

Chair: Ron Bellchambers

Minutes: Ann-Louise Breeding

Present: Jenna Christmas (DEW), Kat Hill (Green Adelaide), David Pace (Scotch College), Melissa Buske (Mercedes), Steve Walker (Green Adelaide), Jeremy Gramp (Green Adelaide), Ann-Louise Breeding (Urrbrae), Ron Bellchambers (BCA)

Apologies: Wayne Meyer, Steve Wasilewski, Tracey Cramond, Alison McCarthy, Wes Parker, Vanessa Greenslade,

Wirraparinga Loop Trail - Ron Bellchambers

Project report Summary

The 2019-2020 financial year saw the completion of the second year of a government funded five year program. Contractor works have transformed Brownhill Creek Recreation Park and made life easier for volunteers (Schools and the Friends of Brownhill Creek).

Extensive weed control work was carried out in the Grey Box Grassy Woodland Entrance Site, below The White Bridge, above The White Bridge, between Brownhill Creek Road and the creek, below the Manure Pits and at Park End. Some areas have high conservation value.

In addition, community donations and volunteer work on various projects generated a 4.6 multiplier. For every \$1 of government funding we generated \$4.6 worth of on-ground activity (see table below).

Contractor Works Total Cost: See attached invoices and receipts	Volunteer hours (No.) Affected by COVID-19 restrictions	Volunteer hours value (hours x \$40.35)	Other contributions from your group (\$)	Contributions from other sources (\$): Suzanne Elliott Charitable Trust, Mitcham Historical Society, Angus Sobels	Grant funding spent (\$): Carry forward of \$154.17 (2021 FY), \$20,000.00 (2020 FY) plus balance left over from 2019 FY.	Total activity costs (\$): x 4.6 multiplier
\$23,788.00	1,618 hours	\$65,286.30	\$935.00	\$20,000.00	\$23,788.00	\$110,009.30

In the 2020-2021 financial year the weed control contractor work will continue. One area that will be a focus in Spring is the Mercedes College Manure Pits Site. Thank you to Wayne for preparing an annual report for DEW.

This year we did not have a schools planting day due to COVID, so less volunteer hours.

Kaurna Shelter Tree Project and Bandicoot Project Update

Bandicoot Project: Conservation Volunteers Australia is carrying out a Bandicoot Project in Brownhill Creek Recreation Park.

A fenced area will be built as a demonstration site, including open ground for foraging and dense native vegetation for protection and an additional food source. The enclosure will be designed to exclude dogs, deer, and kangaroos, but allow Bandicoots free movement in or out. CVA and National Parks to monitor outcomes. Maybe an opportunity for students to learn about Southern Brown Bandicoots.

The Friends of Brownhill Creek has received funding through this project for additional plants to hopefully extend the range of the Bandicoot colony.

The Kurna Shelter Tree Project at the entrance of the park is underway, with the completion date extended until July 2021 due to COVID-19.

In 2011 the Kurna Shelter Tree was in decline due to an infestation of woody weeds (see photo).

Tree Assessment and Management Plan: Brownhill Creek SA 15th August 2011.



Figure 1: The subject Eucalyptus camaldulensis enclosed by woody weed species, Willows and Desert Ash on the edge of Brownhill Creek.

The Friends of Brownhill Creek commissioned a tree management report in 2011 and in 2018 a second report was commissioned by the EPA. After some initial limited clearing, major clearing was successfully undertaken this year as part of the Kurna Shelter Tree Project. The iconic River Red Gum is looking much healthier (see current photo).



Both arborist reports recommended large scale clearing of woody weeds and the protection of the tree's root zone with a native garden (endemic species). Visitation is a problem with people entering the tree in increasing numbers. How can visitors view into the tree when it is oriented towards the creek on a very steep bank? Do we retain the bank and backfill to create a viewing area, do we build a cantilevered viewing platform, do we create a short walking trail with stepping stones to direct visitors across the creek, or do we just restrict access? Discussions are still underway with all stakeholders. Kurna direction is the key.

In August work begins on the native garden / landscaping / seating area. A Kurna Place of Reflection and Reconciliation will be created with artwork and interpretive signage. Carved red gum log seats are almost finished by Kurna artist Allan Sumner. Allan Sumner wants to combine Kurna and European Heritage on the interpretive sign.

It is now accepted that this tree is a Kurna Birthing Tree and as such female Kurna Elders are involved and the tree will be listed on the Register of Aboriginal Sites and Objects.

Scotch College, BCA, Mitcham Historical Society, the Rotary Club of Brownhill Creek, the Suzanne Elliott Charitable Trust, the Kurna Community and National Parks are partnering on the project.

Changes to NRM Volunteer Support - Kat Hill

Volunteer support has changed to go back to National Parks. Park Rangers will deliver volunteer support. Kat is now with Green Adelaide.

The Green Adelaide Board will offer a volunteer support program for off-park groups.

BCA is not limited to Brownhill Creek Recreation Park. Volunteer activities related to such projects as the Wirraparinga Loop Trail (that overlap boundaries) could potentially receive support from both National Parks and Green Adelaide. Certainly grant funding will be available through Green Adelaide. This provides opportunities for local schools. BCA's Ed & Reveg Committee to meet again on Tuesday 18 August to discuss Green Adelaide grant opportunities for schools.

Changes to NRM Education Support – Jeremy Gramp

Steve Walker and Jeremy Gramp have also moved into Green Adelaide as Education Officers. Nature Education is a priority for the Board. All contracts have been extended for a year to establish priorities and to determine the exact nature of the education program going forward.

The program will likely include the broader community, involving lifelong learning.

Grass Roots Grants which schools are eligible for open 5th August (up to \$50, 000). There are three tiers for grants. All grant applications need to link to Green Adelaide's Seven Priorities:

<https://www.environment.sa.gov.au/topics/green-adelaide/our-priorities>

Widening of the Cross Road / Fullarton Road Intersection

DPTI to meet with stake holders, including Waite and UAHS. Looking to upgrade / widen intersection by likely taking land from the Waite Arboretum and Urrbrae Agricultural High School.

No detailed plans or definite impacts have yet been provided by DPTI.

Potentially the heritage Lodge / Gatehouse and significant trees are at risk.

BCA is partnering with Mitcham Historical Society (MHS) to achieve the best possible outcome in what is a very complicated matter.

Once DPTI provides detailed plans then negotiations will take place. BCA and MHS have proposed DPTI moving the Lodge rather than demolishing it and avoiding or minimising tree loss. Certainly the diversion of heavy road freight away from the suburbs, rather than the wholesale widening of Cross Road is preferred.

Ron Bellchambers met with Professor Martin Cole (Waite, Head of School Agriculture Food & Wine). Ron and Joanna Wells (Mitcham Historical Society) met with Mark Branson (Waite, Campus Infrastructure Manager).

Very positive meetings with the University of Adelaide Waite Campus wanting to engage with local schools and the community. The Waite wants to partner in the Wirraparinga Loop Trail Project, integrating their trails, Urrbrae House and the Waite Arboretum. Also possibilities for education links

and facilities opened up to the public. The Waite is committed to preserving environment and heritage.

Proposed Schools Environmental Education Day

Traditionally each year there is a whole school education or planting day (since 2016).

The 2020 Planting Day was cancelled due to COVID 19. Proposed an Education Day to replicate that of 2016 (e.g. students to participate in a series of workshops)

Include Professional presentations and Primary schools to present as well.

Include Kurna and European Cultural Context

Invite Mitcham Council Involvement?

Any Other Business:

Seek funding from Green Adelaide Grass roots funding as a collective for future projects.

Possible date for term 4 – Proposed date Thursday 29th October 2020

ACTION: All schools to confirm this data by Friday 31st August 2020

Next Meeting

- *Tuesday 18th August UAHS STEM Centre* - Special meeting for schools and grant application
- *Tuesday 13th October UAHS STEM Centre* – regular meeting

Meeting Closed 5:00pm