

Fox Gully Restoration Update

July 2012

Volunteer community contribution – 4,092 hours

www.foxgully.wordpress.com

2012 Community Gully Day Sunday 5 August

We are making a difference!

- Huge Indian Rubber tree removed
 - Result > permanent spring restored & water in gully habitat - water in habitat means more frogs, more birds, more butterflies and more micro-bats.
- Madeira Vine – also called Potato or Snake Vine - almost eliminated in five properties
 - Result > we can now work down gully to eliminate the major infestation near Klumpp Road

The 2011 Community Gully Day removed six cubic metres of rubbish and followed up removal of the Indian Rubber tree with removal of a large number of Yellow Oleander (Captain Cook) trees. Since then logs have been put in place and the slope mulched to control erosion and prepare the soil for replanting.



Tailed Emperor *Polyura sempronius*
Chrysalis found after 2011 Gully Day



On Sunday 5th August the plan is to replant the wildlife corridor with natives like:

- grasses - Creeping Beard Grass *Oplismenus aemulus*, Graceful Grass *Ottochloa gracillima* (caterpillar food for Orange-streaked Ringlet butterflies) and Green Mulch to control weeds;
- Creek Mat-rush *Lomandra hystrix* (caterpillar food for Brown Ochre and Splendid Ochre butterflies).

Men's Shed nest-boxes will also be installed to restore habitat for birds like Scaly-breasted Lorikeets.

Eighteen properties now restoring corridors

Owners of eighteen properties are now committed to restoration of Fox Gully and Firefly Gully wildlife corridors which will link Mt Gravatt Conservation Reserve with Mimosa Creek and Roly Chapman Reserve. Because this critical link is on private property work is not covered by the BCC Bushcare initiative. Support is coming from B4C (public liability insurance & plants), Men's Shed (nest boxes), community members (tax deductible donations).

How can you be involved?

- Join us planting on Sunday 5th
- Tax deductible donations will help pay for plants, materials for nest-boxes, etc.
- Property owners can commit to restoration of their part of the corridor.



Tuesday Bushcare - Zone 13 Restoration

The Tuesday Bushcare team has been hard at work restoring Zone 13 at the top of the gully. Close to 100 bags of Fishbone Fern have now been removed and the native grasses, vines, herbs, shrubs and six local ferns are returning to the cleared area. Tuesday Bushcare team membership varies with student volunteers from QUT and Australian Catholic University, regulars like community members Michael and Edd (pictured) and Paul, as well as locals like Annette (pictured) and Marshal.



Simple removal of the Fishbone Fern is expected to be effective long term because it does not appear to be easily spread by wind born spores like many other ferns. Fishbone spreads mostly by runners and typically invades our bushland areas when it is dumped by householders who think it is just "mulch". So with a combination of removal, Green Mulching with native grasses and education of householders, use Green Bins for lawn clippings we expect to be able to eradicate this invasive weed from the Fox Gully Bushcare site.

FERAL ANIMALS - FOX ALERT!



18/6/12 4:27am Fox arrives and goes to raid hen house



18/6/12 4:35am Fox squirms back under fence
- no chicken dinner tonight

BCC experts have been trapping and removing foxes within Mt Gravatt Conservation Reserve with seven foxes removed in 2011. (Trapped foxes are humanely euthanized by University of Queensland vets.) However, foxes also use our gully wildlife corridors and currently there is at least one fox roaming in the Fox Gully Bushcare area and killing chickens in properties adjoining the gully.

We are now using an infrared wildlife camera on loan from Griffith University to collect information on fox movements so we can provide detailed information to Council officers to help in management of this pest.

Please report any fox sightings to the BCC call centre on 3403 8888 24hours. Provide details of date, time and location which will be passed on to the fox eradication team.

Fox Gully Bushcare Mt Gravatt Environment Group

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