

# Fox Gully Restoration Update

June 2010

Replanting progressive total – 1,586 grasses, vines, herbs, shrubs and trees

[www.foxgully.wordpress.com](http://www.foxgully.wordpress.com)

## Zone 14 Restoration - Stage 2

Preparation is well underway for an October replanting of the second stage of Zone 14, near the water reservoir at the top of Azania Street.

The first stage planting in October last year has been a success with bushes, vines and grass thriving with the excellent weather conditions. Our restoration work is already bringing butterflies back with the Early Flowering Black Wattle supporting a new population of Imperial Hairstreak butterflies in April this year.



Steve Fox-Andrew has been busy clearing a huge volume of weeds and rubbish now piled up for removal by the BCC Habitat Brisbane team.



While rubbish and some dangerous weeds have to be removed off-site we aim to recycle more than 80% on-site: keep nutrients and minimise our bushcare workload. We have been successfully composting weeds like Singapore Daisy and Purple Succulent. Now a Southside Sport & Community Centre – [www.southsidesport.com.au](http://www.southsidesport.com.au) grant has allowed MEG to purchase a powerful new Greenfield Piecemaker chipper. Our Fox Gully site is the first to benefit with removal and on-site chipping of weed trees including Chinese Elm, Camphor Laurel and Small Leafed Privet.

Bruce Errey has started restoration of our new Zone 17 area just below the water reservoir at the top of Azania Street. Removal of Singapore Daisy and Umbrella Trees from this area is an important step in restoration of Azania Gully. It is a beautiful area full of surprises, like this unusual funnel shaped gilled fungi seen at our Wednesday bushcare.



We have had an extraordinary season with fungi as well as butterflies. I am now sharing our amazing forest flora and fauna with the wider community by writing bi-monthly articles for the new Southside Community News. My second article was inspired by our amazing fungi.

**WEED ALERT!**

Fishbone Fern is one of the next major weed targets for Fox Gully restoration. We have at least six native ferns indigenous to the gully but they are being crowded out by Fishbone Fern escaped from gardens adjoining the forest.



**Forest Fungi - not just what you see**

There's a strange man out the back, my daughter called. He's lying on the ground taking photos!

The strange man was visiting Canadian Fungi expert, photographer and author Duane Sept - [www.septphoto.com](http://www.septphoto.com). Duane was taking photos of our extraordinary Craypot Stinkhorn fungi.

Duane's enthusiasm for fungi is infectious. He helped me understand these complex organisms through simple categories: gilled, fleshy pore fungi, stinkhorns, puffballs, polypore (wood decay) fungi and he started me researching.

I knew about the important and highly visible role of fungi in breaking down dead trees and forest mulch.

I have also been fascinated by the amazing variety of fungi that pops up after rain.

The real surprise was discovering the secret but mutually beneficial relationships between fungi and many plant species in our forest. The koala food trees, Tallowwood and Scribbly Gum, are two that depend on this relationship with fungi.

Before meeting Duane and researching fungi, I thought of fungi only in terms of the mushrooms, stinkhorns or puffballs that popped up after rain.

I now know that these visible fungi are just for reproduction and the largest part of the organism is a hidden network of mycelium spreading and connecting plants over a huge area.

How big can fungi grow?

The biggest fungi in the world was an 8500-year-old Armillaria ostoyae found in northeast Oregon, US and carpeting almost 10 square kilometres of forest.

My research into the flora of Mt Gravatt has uncovered 48 different fungi [www.megoutlook.wordpress.com](http://www.megoutlook.wordpress.com) Forest Fungi, but like the iceberg, the biggest story is what lies below the surface, not what you see above the ground even though, like the Craypot Stinkhorn fungi pictured here, what is on the surface is often pretty spectacular.



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