

Fox Gully Restoration Update

November 2010

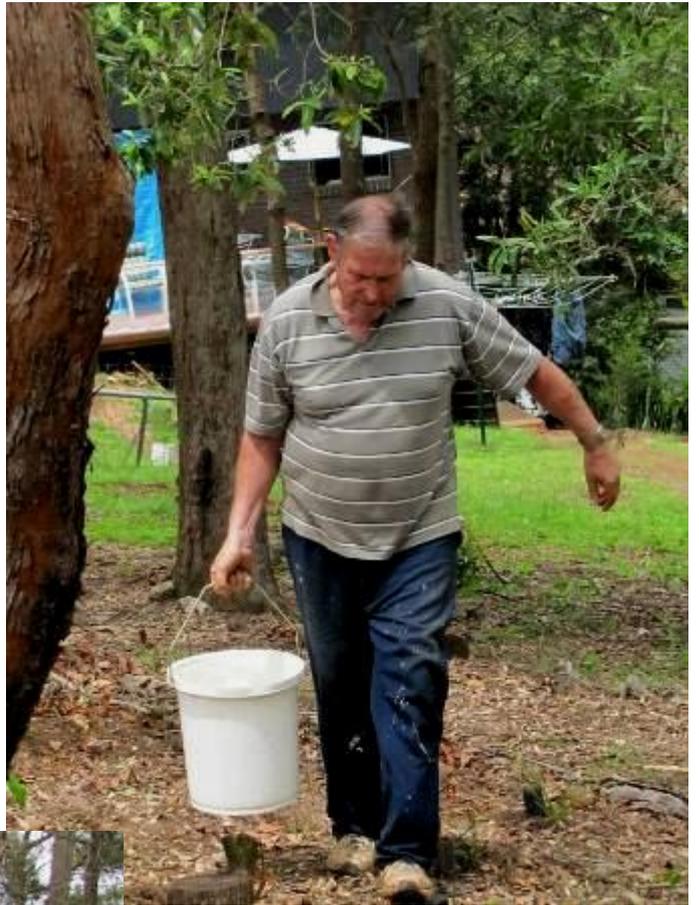
Replanting progressive total – **2,046** grasses, vines, herbs, shrubs and trees

www.foxgully.wordpress.com



“I use the forest, so I think I should contribute to making it better.” Lee (left) is one of the increasing number of walkers and runners enjoying the space we are creating.

Our annual Fox Gully planting is becoming a true community event with twenty-one neighbours and friends planting, wheeling mulch, carting water, chatting, laughing and sharing a morning tea.



Steve (right - carrying water) has done most of the site preparation. Clearing weeds like Singapore Daisy, Lion's Tail, Easter Cassia and Chinese Elm. An ex-farmer, Steve has learnt very different ways of land management as we worked together to remove weeds while retaining indigenous grasses and vines.



Cindy (left) and Melissa are two international students, from South Korea and Reunion Island respectively, who along with Kanthi from Shi Lanka (next photo – pink gloves), have come to love our unique Australian bush and wildlife.

All age groups and generations were represented.
was particularly satisfying to have three generations working together: Barbara with granddaughter Anastasia, Matt with daughter Maya.



Almost finished, with over 400 grasses, vines, lomandras and trees planted and a thick layer of mulch going in to retain water and minimise weed regrowth.

While mainly intended to restore the bush and bring back butterflies, birds and koalas, the planting will also reduce fire risk for properties adjoining the forest. Native grasses like Rainforest Grass *Oplismenus aemulus* have a low growth habit and do not produce the high fuel load of weeds like Guinea Grass.

The Blue Triangle is one of the best know butterflies in the forest and suburbs. However we have only two tree species on the mountain that support these beautiful butterflies. One species is the very invasive environmental weed Camphor Laurel which forms dense masses along waterways replacing Koala trees like the Queensland Blue Gum. All parts of the plant are toxic to humans and the toxins also appear to inhibit growth of native plants in proximity.

The Hairy-leaved Lollybush *Clerodendrum tomentosum*, an indigenous alternative for Blue Triangles, is one of the trees planted to maintain and grow our butterfly population.



WEED ALERT!



Don't Dump It – Bin It!

BCC Green Bins are a convenient, low cost option for disposing of garden waste. Garden waste is currently one of the three big threats to our forest. Grass clippings, in particular, tend to mat down into an impermeable layer starving tree roots of both water and air.

You can order a Green Bin from BCC Call Centre on 07 3403 8888. Cost is \$16.25 per quarter.

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