

Revegetating Fossil Bluff hill - Biodiversity Alive - a 30 year project

Providing a suitable habitat for bandicoots and birds, plus a nature reserve for community to enjoy and appreciate

Engaging our grandchildren - the future generation - to connect with nature



Fossil Bluff hill was cleared 200 years ago and used for cattle grazing

In the early 1970s a proposal to build housing was rejected by the community, and the land returned to public ownership.

The land then remained largely neglected.

No natural revegetation of indigenous species as 150 years of cattle grazing eliminated the seed bank and soil mycorrhizal fungi. Furthermore, the large population of pademelons graze and eliminate emerging native seedlings.

Over the last two decades coastal wattle, *Acacia longifolia* subsp. *sophora*, has hybridised and spread extensively.

More recently, two exotic weeds are proliferating and spreading. European elderberry, *Sambucus nigra*, and Arum Lily, *Zantedeschia aethiopica*, have been growing and establishing under the shade of the wattle.



In past six years volunteers planted 3,900 seedlings of bushes, shrubs, small trees, grasses and sedges arranged in patches - all 35 indigenous species supplied by Oldina Nurseries from locally collected seed.

Costs are minimum, seedlings at \$2, recycled guards and stakes.

Community involvement enables a sense of ownership in conserving biodiversity. Parents for Climate (P4C) group, parents & enthusiastic children, assisted with planting.



2022



Parks and Wildlife Service (PWS) clear and chip coastal wattle areas for future plantings.

PWS annually mow grass between patches to reduce danger of tiger snakes & provide a safe habitat for volunteers and visitors.



2023 patch 32



2024 patch 32



2024



2026 patch 32

The older mature Acacia trees are dying in the centre and spreading at the edges.



weeding



exotic weeds



2026

Routine maintenance of plantings throughout the year is essential.

400 volunteer hours annually controlling exotic weeds European elderberry and Arum Lily. Weeding grass infestation around young seedlings.

Pademelon damage to plantings is a major problem, especially in the mating season. Installed wire mesh guards & tree branch guards.



2026 plantings

wire mesh & tree branch guards

2026



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