

Friends Group catch-up

Friends of Bernards Way



Date

20 March 2024

Attendants

Ian, Debbie, Natarsha, Hannah, Danielle

Working bees for next year

Time- 9:30-11:30am

Dates- 4th Sunday of the month except July and August (10x)

Annual working bee planning

Month	Activity, Location and comments
January	Possibly watering, weeding
February	Somewhere shady
March	Preparation weeding for planting in May
April	Preparation weeding for planting in May
May	Planting
June	Possible mulching of new track (New track to be created by Bushland Management Team)
July	No working bee
August	No working bee
September	Possible weeding
October	Possible weeding
November	Possible weeding
December	Celebrate yearly achievements

Plant order for 2025

Plant order will be organised during August 2024. Hannah will be in touch.

[If plants requested, where is the group going to plant them?](#)

Area 2, currently Blackberry. Once Blackberry is removed it will open up the area for group to mulch. This is a highly visible spot for the wider community to see.

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Is preparation required?

Yes-Blackberry removal and delineation of bed with thick branches/logs.

Mulch order required? Yes, Natarsha will request mulch from the Shire.

Projects or grants

A number of steps before undertaking grants. Group will require:

- Auspice or incorporated group (possibly FOCS)
- insurance
- bank account to apply for any grant.
- 'Environmental Agreement' with the Shire.

All grant concepts to be discussed with Shire before applying for a grant.

Success of group (if any)

- Group is proud with how far Area 1 has come in such a short period of time (2 years now!)
- people (who are walking by) noticing improvements in the reserve
- happy with Natarsha's support

Challenges of group (if any)

- NA

Other

Notes

- Path clearing in area 3 has been approved and is sitting with Bushland Team to action. Once created, this will be a natural, meandering, mulched, single file track through the bush.
- New bollard replaced at front gate and new reserve sign
- Spoke about the possibility of having RMIT students come to the reserve and put together possible concept designs for the reserve
- To entice the community to draw, group has discussed getting a guest speaker along or advertising an event, possible twice a year
- Group had the fabulous idea of writing names of plants on the tree guards
- Spoke about the possibility of a community library and sports equipment box. Will need to be to the side to avoid any lawn slashing issues. And not permanent (concreted).
- Next boxes would not be needed at this site as there is sufficient habitat for bat species at the reserve. Other animals that need nest boxes are typical absent from the area as there are little hollow bearing trees (e.g. Eucalyptus) that natural occur
- Exciting opportunity- the Body Corporate of a one acre block at RACV is interested in coming along to the working bee for advice
- Possible Junior Landcare grant, or other grant if more children attend
- Ian promotes community events/workshops on the groups website
- Plant a shade tree for above the tables
- Spoke about the mowing in reserve and sometimes the grass can be very long! Especially have concerns when children are attending working bee. Hannah mentioned very little can change in

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terms of mowing as the entire Peninsula is on a mowing cycle and they do regions each week. There is a new contract starting July 1st 2024, so some changes/delays may occur.

Actions

- [iNaturalist](#) bioblitz with the group as a different task at a monthly working bee
App is great for building plant ID skills and also a tool to monitor and record the flora/fauna at the reserve.
- Request for water tap/bubbler for the reserve