

FRIENDS OF HODDLES CREEK NEWSLETTER

A growing success: just take a look at how these FOHC projects are going

The Friends of Hoddles Creek have so far embarked on three major environmental projects – weed control near the junction of Hoddles Creek and Blackleather Creek, roadside planting along Yellowgum Road (with the Shire of Yarra Ranges) and a joint garden project with Hoddles Creek Primary School.

Each of these projects has been underway for some time and we thought we should revisit them to take a look at progress.

Weeds down but not out

Weed treatment along a 600-700 metre stretch of Hoddles Creek and Blackleather Creek is into its third year and we have seen a dramatic reduction in blackberry and holly infestation. This has meant the return of many understorey plants, especially fern species.

While the overall weed burden is down, regrowth means that the area will need ongoing management to keep the weeds out. The photograph shows one of the large holly trees that has been 'treated' – a tree like this can be the source of hundreds of new plants in the surrounding area.

This project is about to be expanded to take in a further section of Hoddles Creek. This will not only improve more of the stream-front, but will also

reduce the risk of reintroduction of weeds into the area already under management.



One of the large holly trees targeted in the weed treatment project

Tree-mendous results at Yellowgum Road

This project started with collection and germination of seeds from indigenous species and has ended with a lush new corridor of trees and understorey plants along a section of Yellowgum Road. Along the way, FOHC members have received invaluable help from the Shire (treeguards, trees, mulch) and Green



View along Yellowgum Road showing excellent growth of trees for the wildlife corridor



FOHC project report (continued from page 1)

Corps volunteers (willing hands to help with mulching and planting).

Two sections have been planted out and a third section is scheduled to be mulched and planted. You can see the impressive results so far in the photo on page 1.

School planting makes the grade

Following removal of a pine plantation adjacent to Hoddles Creek Primary School, FOHC members worked with the school community to develop a plan for a native garden, with a range of environments, including a frog bog and an outdoor classroom area. With the generous

assistance of local businesses and the Shire, pupils, teachers, parents and FOHC members have completed two stages of the project, with a third planting planned for this month. The first two plantings have taken off, despite the dry summer – you can see just how well in the photograph below.

Where to from here?

We are very pleased with the work so far completed on these projects, but there is still lots more to do. Our weed clearing project is about to double in size, more sections of Yellowgum Road need to be prepared and planted to complete the wildlife corridor and the school project



Part of the Stage 1 planting at Hoddles Creek Primary School

AUTUMN COMPETITION

We think Hoddles Creek is a pretty special place to live, but we're sure there must be ways to make it even better. Tell us how you think Hoddles Creek could be better, in 50 words or less, to be in the running for our prize of 2 bottles of excellent wine from the Hoddles Creek Vineyard. You can mail your entry to us at FOHC Competition, PO Box 298 Yarra Junction Vic 3797, or email us at fohc@provender.com.au. Entries close on Friday June 25. The winner will be notified and the winning entry will appear in our Winter Newsletter.

requires more earthworks before further stages of the planting can be undertaken. All this means that there is plenty of work for existing members and a real need for new members. More hands will allow us to take on additional projects helping to maximise and protect the natural beauty of Hoddles Creek for all.

COMING UP IN OUR WINTER ISSUE: PETS AND THE BUSH

Man's best friends can live happily in a bush setting or they can wreak havoc. We take a look at responsible pet ownership in the sensitive environment of Hoddles Creek.

Now you can find us on the net

For those of you who would like to access us on-line, the Friends of Hoddles Creek now have their very own website at www.provender.com.au/fohc. At present, this tells you a bit about the group and provides access to all past issues of the FOHC Newsletters.

We will soon be adding a range of links to sites on the environment and educational resources, as well as a photo gallery of FOHC projects and activities and other goodies.

Why not take a look and give us your comments and suggestions? You can email us at fohc@provender.com.au.

Thanks again to Jill the postie for delivering the FOHC Newsletter.

Thanks to Melbourne Water for their grant towards this Newsletter.

It's not all work!

As well as our working bees, the Friends of Hoddles Creek keep a watching brief on environmental and planning issues, write letters, have great lunches and dinners and bring together an interesting bunch of people – so there's something for young and old to contribute and enjoy.

Like to join or want more information about the group? We'd love to hear from you. Simply complete the form below and mail to us at FOHC, PO Box 298 Yarra Junction, Vic 3797, or email us at fohc@provender.com.au. Membership is free – all you need is an interest in your local area.

Name:.....

Address:

Phone:

Email:

I'd like to join Friends of Hoddles Creek.

I'd like more information. Please ring me.