



Friends of Newport Lakes Newsletter

Spring 2016

Welcome

Spring is really looking like it has arrived. I walked some of the park tracks recently surrounded by many different wattles in bloom. Such an oasis.

Please remember to renew your membership to FoNL if you haven't already. Details are at the end of the newsletter. This will be your last newsletter if we do not receive your membership..

Also take note that snakes are out and about and Newport Lakes Park is their natural habitat so think about keeping your dog on a lead. .



Jenny, Lorraine & Mary thank Christine

2016 AGM

FoNL's AGM was held on August 16. After Lorraine welcomed everyone, she summarised the many things that FoNL has done or contributed to over the past year. Members were sent her

report earlier so I won't repeat the details, but for such a small team we are very pleased with the many things we have accomplished.

Sadly two of our committee members did not stand for re-election. Christine Weller has been a valued member of the committee for the past few years and will be missed. Geoff Wraight who joined last year will be unable to continue on the committee. He was instrumental in finalising our bird booklet – a gallant effort. We wish both Christine and Geoff all the best.

We have one new committee member: Jenny Allen has joined us and we look forward to working with her.

Our guest speaker, local reptile expert Adam Sapiano then delivered a fascinating, informative and at times surprising talk about the snakes of the local area.

Tiger snakes are the only snakes that are regularly seen at Newport Lakes and they don't always have the tell tale tiger like bands. Adam showed us half a dozen photos of snakes which many of us thought we named. It turns out they were all tiger snakes

and ranged in colour from quite light to almost black.

Adam reiterated that if you see a snake in your path, stand still and back away. Snakes will only strike if cornered.



Jenny weeding at a working bee

From Quarry to Oasis

Earlier in October, two of our committee members, Mary and Jenny, gave a talk about the history of Newport Lakes as part of the Sustainability Expo at the Louis Joel Centre. Newport lakes originally operated as a quarry and then languished as an industrial wasteland. Mary described how community commitment to environmental conservation, led to the establishment of Newport Lakes Park. Mary has been involved in maintaining the park ever since.

Snakes are up and about in the park

With the warmer days that we've had the snakes are well and truly out and about. One of our committee members saw one on the western side of the park a week or two back. So please be careful when your dogs are off lead. Dogs cannot metabolise snake venom so a snake bite is very serious and often fatal.

End of year get together

The members' end of year get together will be held at Pavey Park on Thursday 8 December, from 5:30 to 8:00pm. We will supply food and fruit juice and good company! You must **RSVP** by 3 December to **Lorraine** on **043 830 7002**



The lawn of the arboretum

Around the Park

If you're keeping in touch with the FoNL [facebook](#) page you'll know that Mary spotted a freckled duck on the southern lake in August. These are quite rare and it is the first time one has been seen at the lakes. Mary has now sighted 130 different bird species at Newport Lakes. Our [Facebook](#) page also has a

number of amazing photos of birds taken at the park.

October trip

Every year HBCC provides a trip for those who have helped out at their many working bees over the previous year. This year about 30 people from a number of friends groups travelled to Woodlands Historic Park in Greenvale.



An old gum at Woodlands Park

This is an amazing spot and well worth a visit. The park is 704ha in size and over half of this (affectionately known as the back paddock) is fenced to keep out cats, dogs and other feral animals. This area is a successful recovery site for the endangered Eastern Barred Bandicoot. Eastern Grey kangaroos, echidnas, skinks and blue tongued lizards also call the back paddock home.

The trip was terrific and FoNL would like to thank HBCC for again organising such a great event to thank friends groups' volunteers.

Night Camera

A couple of years ago we received funding for a night camera that Mary has been placing around the park in order for us to see what ground animals there may be. Unfortunately Mary is no

longer able to do this and we are looking for someone who could place the camera out at dusk and retrieve it in the morning occasionally. If you are interested please contact Mary (number below).

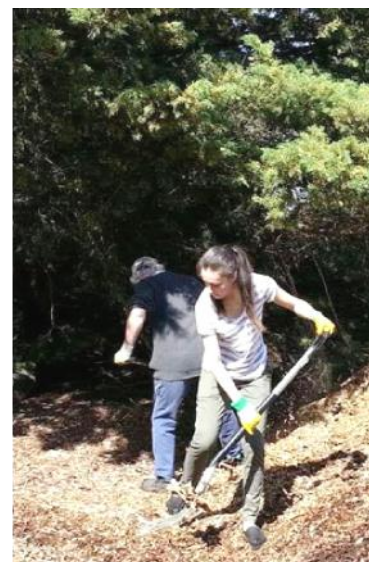
Previous Events

The August and September working bees saw us planting, weeding and mulching in various spots.

Events for 2016

November 13: Mulching

December: end of year event



Working hard in September

Contact

Mary: 9391 5758

Lorraine: 043 830 7002

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