



Newsletter

Issue 1 April 2011

Welcome

To the Friends of Fogg Dam first newsletter, bringing you news of what's been happening at Fogg Dam and the coming events we have planned. We hope you enjoy it and are able to visit us some time soon. If you are interested in receiving the newsletter by email contact info@foggdamfriends.org

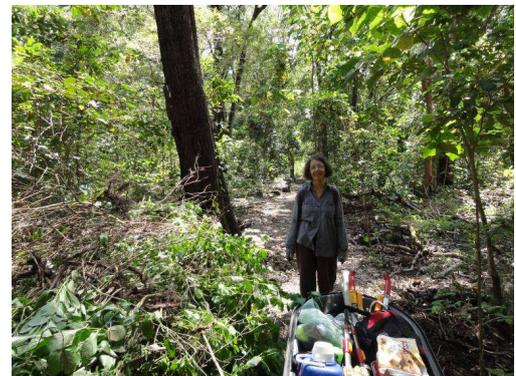


The dam today

Water is overflowing the causeway at Fogg Dam but it is possible to drive through. Hundreds of water birds are feeding on the fish being carried across in the water. Royal Spoonbills, Great, Intermediate and Little egrets are all in breeding plumage.

Coming activities

- **Working Bee : Sunday 17 April 9am**
Meet at the Fogg Dam rotunda.
Activities : Airboat spraying of Olive Hymanachne (from 2 boats), if dry enough GPS mapping of creek feeding into Fogg Dam plus other activities.
12pm BBQ supplied by P&W rsvp Heather info@foggdamfriends.org
- **Working Bee : Sunday 21 May 9am**



Memberships

Memberships are due again. \$25 per person or \$30 per family. In order for us to continue to apply for grants and fulfil our vision to put Fogg Dam on the map and in the hearts and minds of people, we need to maintain as many members as possible.



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Working Bees

On 17 March I went out on the Parks & Wildlife air-boat with ranger Charlie to do some GPS mapping of Olive Hymenachne weed on the low side of the dam wall. The NT Natural Resource Management Board has provided a grant under the Caring for Country community program for the FOFD with Parks & Wildlife to map infestations and exterminate this fast spreading weed from the Fogg Dam catchment area. It is certainly a priority task – the weed is abundant within 1/2 km or so of the dam wall and is particularly dense at the forest margin.



Apart from the satisfaction of doing something useful to support Dean and his team of Parks & Wildlife rangers and the FOFD in enhancing the ecological values of the area, it was great fun! Jetting through the grass and reeds, cruising around inside the flooded forest margin – there is really no other way to see this landscape close up. We saw several magpie geese nests, lots of waterbirds of course, a pair of barn owls



The FOFD is a great initiative and shows what can be achieved by active community volunteer groups.

Ross Trevena



Olive hymenachne is a semi-aquatic grass which can grow up to 2.5 metres tall, above or below the water. It was originally introduced from South America to provide ponded pasture for cattle. Olive hymenachne has since demonstrated invasive characteristics, by forming dense monocultures in natural wetlands. Olive hymenachne is declared a Class B (spread to be controlled) and Class C (not to be introduced to the Northern Territory) weed in accordance with the NT Weeds Management Act.

Further reference www.nt.gov.au/weeds

GPS Training

Working bee on 27/02/11 FOFD welcomed the Humpty Doo Girl Guides whom participated in the identification of the Olive Hymenachne and GPS training. Thankyou Dean for a most informative day.

