



Newsletter

Issue 20 July 2018

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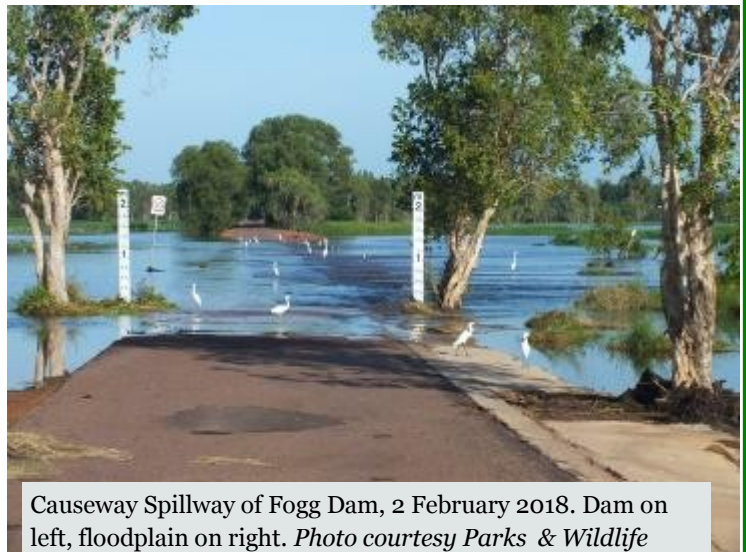
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The 2017-18 wet season and its impact at Fogg Dam

Following two low rainfall or “dry” wet seasons Fogg Dam filled during the 2016-17 wet season when around 1900 mm of rain fell. Modifications to the spillway area of the dam wall were then made to stabilise the wall.

Over 900 mm of rain fell in January 2018 and flash flooding of the Adelaide River on the 1st and 2nd of February raised the water level of the floodplain to match that of the dam.

While the floodwaters subsided rapidly, continuing high water flows across the dam wall severely eroded the road and spillway area.



Causeway Spillway of Fogg Dam, 2 February 2018. Dam on left, floodplain on right. *Photo courtesy Parks & Wildlife*



Damage to spillway, March 2018



View from floodplain across dam wall 2 February
Photo courtesy Parks & Wildlife



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The flooding forced closure of the western side of the dam wall to traffic while for safety reasons both the Woodlands to Waterlily and the Monsoon Forest Walks were closed.



Monsoon Forest walk closure. *Photo: P & W*



Fogg Dam causeway. Dam to the left.
Photo: Fiona D Prentice

To the east of Anzac Parade, floodplain waters entered Harrison Dam and also blocked road access to Humpty Doo Barramundi farm.



Harrison Dam spillway. Floodplain to left.
Photo: Parks & Wildlife



Anzac Parade flooding isolated Humpty Doo Barramundi farm *Photo: Parks & Wildlife*

With Fogg Dam full and overflowing, the Rangers and contractors were able to move lots of the dam's floating weed mat across the wall and onto the floodplain. While doing that, weed mat was banked against the wall to slow the flow of water and limit damage to the spillway.

Weed mat banked-up against the causeway. Dam to the left.
Photo: Alan Marshall



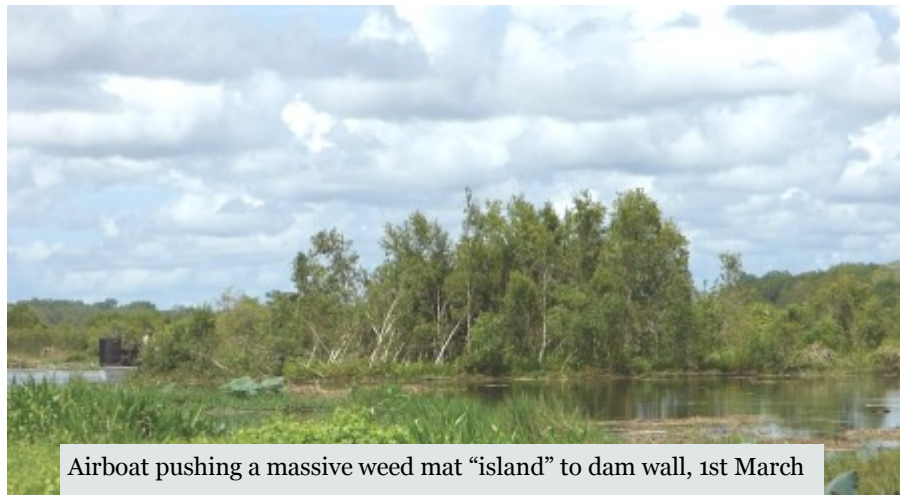


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Contractors "skidding" weed mat over the dam wall, 1st March



Airboat pushing a massive weed mat "island" to dam wall, 1st March

With the ground already saturated, Category 2 Cyclone Marcus struck causing widespread damage to trees and power lines around Darwin. Fogg Dam suffered with 8 trees fallen beside the dam wall and large trees down along both walking tracks.



Fallen tree, dam wall. Photo: Mary Marshall



Entrance road, 18 March
Photo Jan Martin



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We appreciate the work of the Fogg Dam Parks & Wildlife Rangers who have been working so hard to repair and clear the enormous damage that the wet season flood and Cyclone Marcus have caused. A massive task undertaken in difficult conditions.



Entrance, Woodland to Waterlily Walk
Photo: Mary Marshall



Woodland to Waterlily Walk
Photo: Alan Marshall

SOME MONSOON FOREST WALK PHOTOS:





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MORE MONSOON FOREST WALK PHOTOS:



SOME WOODLAND TO WATERLILY WALK PHOTOS:





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After many weeks of work by the Rangers to clear and make the tracks safe, the Woodland to Waterlily walk re-opened on 20th June. Following rehabilitation of the walking track surface, the Monsoon Forest Walk re-opened on 18 July.

Repairs to the Fogg Dam wall commenced on 18 July. The gravelled area next to a wash-out of the bitumen roadway has been graded to provide access to Pandanus Lookout. The water level in the dam needs to fall further before the bitumen road can be repaired.



Washed-out roadway,
19 July



By-pass around wash-out of dam wall roadway, 19 July

Earth Hour Wildlife Walk

Friends of Fogg Dam hosted an evening Earth Hour walk on Saturday 24 March led by Ranger Jonny McGannon. Assisting were Diana Lambert, Kim and David McLachlan, and Debbie Louez.

20 people attended and our thanks to our guides, Debbie and Kim for photographs and Diana for a list of discoveries; placed on FOFD's Facebook page.





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Species identified and reported on the FOFD Facebook page included birds (9), frogs (5), insects (6), spiders (5), fish (5), reptiles (1).



Heritage Week

On Saturday 21st April FOFD members Heather Boulden and Jeremy Hemphill led a small group on a 3-hour tour of the Humpty Doo Rice Trail, starting at the former Coolalinga rice mill and visiting rice project sites including Fogg Dam, Harrison Dam and Windows on the Wetland.

Participants were provided with locality maps of the rice project and a drivers' guide to assist self-guided touring. This is available for download from FOFD's www.ricetrail.com.au website.



Some of the group at the Middle Point village information sign



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Visit by Landcare and Natural Resource Management

Territory NRM hosted a 2-day meeting in Darwin of all of Australia's regional NRM chairpersons over 21 and 22 of May.

28 of the Chairpersons visited properties in the Middle Point area on Wednesday, May 23rd including Foggy Dam and Humpty Doo Barramundi. They were briefed on Foggy Dam Conservation Reserve and the work of FOFD and had morning tea at the Rotunda. Each was given a copy of the Rice Trail drivers' guide.



NRM regional Chairpersons at the rotunda

Independently and overlapping the NRM visit, Sue McKinnon, Chairperson of Landcare NT and Peter Bridgewater, Chairperson of the National Landcare Network, visited Foggy Dam and joined the NRM briefing and morning tea.



Heather Boulden with Sue McKinnon and Peter Bridgewater

"Then and Now" display at Coolalinga Central

Management of the one year old Coolalinga Central shopping centre organised a display of past and current Darwin and Coolalinga activities from Wednesday 27 June to Saturday 30 June.

In preparing the Humpty Doo Rice Trail, FOFD accumulated information on the Coolalinga rice mill, which used World War 2 buildings. Photos of the area then and now and a plan of WW2 military facilities were provided for the display. Our thanks to Bob Hulands, Sno Klose and the late Ted Kilpatrick for their rice project era photos.



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Territory NRM's Top End Forum

TNRM's annual Top End Forum at the Travelodge Resort, Darwin, on Tuesday May 29 had over 70 participants including at least four FOFD members. They heard from 11 speakers about natural resource management projects and practices and on-ground work.

Presentations covered a diverse range of topics including, integrated pest management, pastoral, aquaculture and endangered species.



Membership dues

Its that time of year when memberships are due. Memberships are necessary to cover general administration costs including public liability and workers compensation insurance cover for participation at working bees and the events we organise.

If you're not already a member, please consider joining. Memberships are valued and cost: Family \$20 a year, single \$15, pensioner/students \$10.

Thank you to those who have already paid their 2017-18 membership. Its helping.

Tax Deductible Gifts

Donations to Friends of Fogg Dam Inc over \$2 in value can qualify for an Australian tax deduction.

FOFD will use tax deductible donations to preserve and enhance the biodiversity of Fogg Dam Conservation Reserve. Donations can be made to FOFD's Bendigo Bank account:

BSB 633-000, account No. 15712 6780

For a receipt to claim your deduction, please email details with your name, donation amount and date of donation to: info@foggdamfriends.org



Dam: view towards causeway, drone photo, 17 June 2018



Birds on the floodplain, drone photo, 21 May 2018