



Newsletter

Issue 5 January 2013

2012 review and into 2013

2012 was a big year for Friends of Fogg Dam Inc with the biennial field day in April and continued work on the Olive Hymenachne project. We also received a grant for developing the Humpty Doo Rice Trail for tourists and that project is due to be completed early this year.

FOFD spent 188 hours of volunteer time weeding or with general maintenance at working bees at Fogg Dam in 2012, which is a great effort and our thanks to everyone who volunteered. We also thank Parks & Wildlife Fogg Dam for all the cooperation, support and assistance they give us.

We are participating with other Darwin region Landcare groups in a three year Commonwealth funded project managed by Conservation Volunteers Australia: "Corridors of Green", which will allow us to assist Parks to tackle a range of weeds at Fogg Dam.

Into 2013, we will continue with our regular working bees and finalise the Humpty Doo Rice Trail project and look at ongoing maintenance issues as they arise. Our best wishes to you for 2013 and we look forward to your continued support.

Olive Hymenachne Project

The work of FOFD in cooperation with Parks has identified an enormous problem which will require continual work to control, let alone eradicate: the Olive Hymenachne at Fogg Dam. It takes an all out effort and our results are encouraging. Over this project we have worked with airboats, Quicksprays, quad bikes & helicopters. Our 2011 grant is now finished and is being acquitted. We will be seeking further funding to continue the work. Below are two photos of recent December activity - helicopter spraying and burning-off next to the causeway on weed sprayed at earlier working bees.



Airboat spraying on the floodplain



Burning beside the causeway



Helicopter spraying on the dam and floodplain

Friends of Fogg Dam Inc. PO Box 1505, Humpty Doo, NT, 0836 www.foggdamfriends.org



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Preparing the displays



Be Crocwise was a popular talk

Fogg Dam Field Day

The Field day held on 29 April was a success with 525 people attending and a great line up of guest speakers, walks, children's activities, a nature art display by Middle Point School children, information and food stalls. This year the event finished at 2pm which suited the visitors well and meant we had good attendance to all events. The Junior Rangers attended and the kids events were a big highlight. Thanks to Jen and Megan from Parks and Wildlife for making it so much fun. Our vision as a group is to put Fogg Dam into the hearts and minds of people and the Field Day does this so well. Thanks again to Parks NT, the volunteers, guides, speakers, sponsors and all who made the day so enjoyable. On the day we couldn't do it without you. Organisation involved over 200 hours of volunteer time.



Feedback forms were collected as visitors departed and the return rate of 88% was outstanding — helped by the generous prizes offered: two double passes to Crocosaurus Cove and two family & a double pass to the Deckchair Cinema.

Some questions and responses were :

How would you rate your experience? 87% good, 9% average, 0% not good, 4% no response.

Do you appreciate Fogg Dam more as a result of coming to the Field Day?

77% yes, 19% unchanged, 1% no, 3% no response

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Sunset at Fogg Dam

The Dam today

At the working bee held on Sunday 21 January we had some monsoon showers and a lovely cool day for weeding and general maintenance. The water level in the dam is unusually low, about a metre below the causeway. The clearing of vegetation early last year shows considerable regrowth of lotus lillies but on the whole has been effective creating open water for the darters, cormorants, pigmy geese, magpie geese, etc. Both walks are still open and clear for easy walking. That will change as the wet season develops. To keep up to date on what's happening out at Fogg Dam, **like us on Facebook.**



On August 12 2012 there were over 60 pelicans at Fogg Dam. Along with the Black Necked Storks (Jabirus) and Brolgas it was a wonderful treat for birders. A week later and the pelicans were all gone.

See short video at

<http://youtu.be/xvIDsZEVDuE>

Annual General Meeting

FOFD AGM was held in October. The committee is:

Heather Boulden – Chairperson

Leisa Baldwin – Vice Chairperson/Treasurer

Jeremy Hemphill – Secretary/Public Officer

Wayne Bennett – Committee member

Ross Trevena – Committee member

Bob Hulands – Committee member

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