



BASSENDEAN PRESERVATION GROUP INC.

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT 2008/9

In 2008/9 Bassendean Preservation Group focused on its core activity of revegetating reserves in the Town of Bassendean.

MEMBERSHIP

Total as at 14 August 2009 = 22

A further 17 members had not renewed their membership by the due date of 1 June 2009.

ACTIVITIES

Members participated in a number of seeding, thinning and repotting days over the summer period. Unfortunately, purchased seed of *Casuarina obesa* and *Eucalyptus todtiana* failed to germinate at all.

A late start to winter rains resulted in the planting program being moved back several weeks, but good rains in August and early September will give our plants a very good start. A total of 3132 native plants were planted out at Ashfield Flats, Bindaring Park, Broadway Arboretum, and Fairford Street drain in winter 2009.

Ashfield Flats

- On 12 July, 20 BPG members planted 572 plants.
- On 16 August, 6 BPG members and 2 volunteers planted 156 Dieback Resistant Jarrahs (DRJs) at Ashfield Parade
- On 23 August, 10 BPG members and volunteers planted 530 plants.

Bindaring Park

- On 9 August, 13 BPG members planted 1001 plants in less than 2 hours

Broadway Arboretum

- The promised watering of plants over summer by Town of Bassendean did not eventuate due to bore failures and water truck breakdown. As a result, only one DRJ tree survived out of 89 planted. The survival of Banksias has been slightly better but not very good. Dry sandy soil and unknown material brought in as fill may be contributing to the poor success rate in this area near Centenary Court.
- On 28 June, 84 DRJs were planted in the 'Southern Jarrah Forest' area and 210 regular jarrahs in the 'Northern Jarrah Forest' area, all supplied by Alcoa.
- Ron van Delft created the Broadway Arboretum Discovery Tour Park Pack and questionnaire to gain support for the original vision developed in 1993. Tours of the Arboretum were held over the weekend of 13/14 June and generated interest from local residents. A new website www.broadwayarboretum.info was created by Ron. There has been no response as yet from the Town of Bassendean in regard to implementing the vision.

Fairford Street Drain

- On 28 June, 47 native species planted on the south side of the drain and at the eastern end adjacent to Broadway Arboretum. Lots of room for more natives to be planted next year.

Jubilee Reserve

- In July, Eden Hill Primary School students with assistance from BPG members undertook planting of native species at Jubilee Reserve B (the small bushland area adjacent to the cricket pavilion). This was funded by the Teachers Environment Fund.

Pickering Park

- On 6 September, 7 BPG members planted rushes along the riverbank.

The planned revegetation work at Success Hill by the Success Hill Action Group did not happen due to community concerns about genetically-modified plants and DRJs. Although these two organisms are totally unrelated, the result was that the DRJs could not be planted at Success Hill and were planted at Broadway Arboretum instead.

PARTNERSHIPS

BPG worked successfully with a number of organizations during the year.

Town of Bassendean

- mowed around revegetation areas.
- controlled weeds in the designated planting areas as requested by BPG.
- provided native plants which were planted by BPG members.
- organized a Success Hill walk through and discussion of dieback and weed control issues with Mark Armstrong, Bob Dixon of Kings Park & Botanic Gardens and local residents on 12 May.
- EMRC/ToB held a Landcare Health & Safety Training evening on 14 May. Attended by seven BPG members.
- Held an Action Planning Workshop for native revegetation work in local reserves on 14 June. Attended by a number of BPG members.
- Steve and Claire had a meeting with ToBs new full-time Environmental Officer, Steve McCabe to discuss the five year plan.

Department of Planning & Infrastructure

- provided a variety of rushes for planting at Pickering Park on 6 September.

Alcoa

- Provided Dieback Resistant Jarrah trees which were planted at the Broadway Arboretum
- Alcoa/Global Impact grant of \$US250 to BPG in recognition of Greg Peterson's participation in BPG activities.

Water Corporation

- At the request of BPG, Water Corp carried out weed control on the south side of the Fairford Street drain adjacent to Broadway Arboretum. BPG members planted approx. 50 plants into the bare areas using BPG plants and also plants provided in the Town of Bassendean's free hand-out to residents.

WEBSITE

The BPG website continued to generate lots of interest in 2008/9. The weekly *Weekend Wagtales* is great for keeping everyone informed about what is happening in the environment arena, both in Bassendean and further afield. A big thank you to Webmaster Don.

GENERAL

The new BPG marquee finally arrived in time for the winter planting season and has proved to be a great asset for the post-planting barbecues and events such as the Broadway Arboretum tour. The purchase of some additional Hamilton Tree Planters will ensure that we have plenty of equipment for planting days.

BPG members enjoyed a celebratory dinner at Hedgehogs café in Bassendean on 13 February. Everyone received a copy of Don Yates' picture book of BPG activities in the previous year.

AWARDS

BPG Inc won two awards during the year:

- Dec 2008 Department of Communities Thank a Volunteer Certificate of Appreciation Award
- 2009 Premier's Australia Day Active Citizenship Award

THANKS

Congratulations to the Executive Committee and all BPG members on another very successful year. It is fantastic that you all give your time so freely to the BPG cause.

Best wishes for the 2009/10 year.

Claire Hall
Chairperson & President
Bassendean Preservation Group Inc.

09/09/09