

30th March, 2014

Network News Flash!



Engineering Work Begins in Popes Glen

Good news all around in this bulletin.

The invasion of European Wasps has dwindled to a few hardy specimens. So the interesting work (see below) has now begun.

With all our surveys up to date, we are waiting to see what changes to the ecosystem this latest section of the project work will have. Just a reminder - our surveys include Frogs, Mammals, Birds, Weed species,

Native vegetation, Silt, Water Condition (in several ways) and of course we are taking photographic records of everything possible, including our 8 registered Photo Points.

Soon we will be preparing our yearly report for the NSW Environmental Trust. This also gives Council Staff, Contractors & our many Volunteers a useful snapshot of the progress on the work.

Adaptive Management.

The latest buzz phrase! Some say Popes Glen has been doing things this way since the group's inception. The method is to observe, put forward an idea, predict the outcome, implement the idea then observe again, measure & adjust if necessary. Common sense? PGBG volunteers are testing an idea to moderate the power in high-flow/storm event water. Several small structures have been built.

Headwall Happenings

Interesting to note the reduction in scale of the work thought necessary over the past 20 years. The paradigm in 1995 was "don't touch it - it will need a giant concrete dam". In 2003 a large gabion wall was thought the right idea. Such is the success of the Blue Mountains Bushcare system, the intervention now required to stabilise the willow headwall is a series of hard-engineered (wooden) structures, built into existing flow lines.

It takes a lot of expertise & experience to get this right.

We believe our Council/ Contractor combination has "the right stuff". The first and largest of the proposed structures has been built in just 3 days, and used a significant proportion of recycled material from the site.

Next edition we will look at these several adaptive management, re-use and stabilising structure examples in more detail.

Prepared by Paul Vale, for Blue Mountains Bushcare Network and Popes Glen Bushcare Group



Example of Adaptive Management in Popes Glen Reserve May 2014



Reusing on-site materials for construction Popes Glen Headwall, Blackheath May 2014

Contact Details:

Phone: 4787 8080

Email:

paulvale@ozemail.com.au

This project has been assisted by the New South Wales Government through its Environmental Trust

