

28th June, 2014

Network News Flash!



Popes Glen Project - End of Year Two

This morning a contingent of 8 volunteers, with our Council Bushcare Officer, enjoyed the fine winter's morning of our final workday for this second year of the Environmental Trust Project. With the relatively warm weather, the weeds and grasses are still crowding our new plantings, so we attacked them with gusto.

Now it is all hands on deck to prepare our next report for The Trust.

Adaptive Management.

As promised, here are some details. Our stormwater moderation structures along the creek banks have been successful, so we have started on some of the more difficult areas. On "Problem Corner", we are trialling a horizontal calming structure we have christened a "ripple bed". This is simply a series of small & medium found-wood sections, laid out haphazardly on the

ground where surges overtop the banks, to aid the natural debris we found collected in the area. This we hope will stop channelisation & take some power out of the surge, without redirecting the water's flow.

All material used for this "structure" is recycled, recovered or found. An example shown below.

We are anxiously waiting for some heavy rain so we can evaluate!

Headwall Happenings

Adaptive Management part the second. Again, this is about re-using materials already on site. Most of the new headwall structure was built with second-hand hardwood sleepers, for stability and longevity. But where possible, in the less critical spots, willow logs and other material from the excavation have been used for infill and supportive structures. Our experience with dead willow on this site is that a large log, say over 400mm diameter, will survive intact in a structure for up to 4 or 5 years. We will monitor these sections

of the headwall structure closely. The installation method has left large gaps where we hope native plants, ferns and the like, will take up residence and provide stability as the willows in the structure decay. If not we can readily make adjustments.

Of course, more precise details will be passed on to Council and included in our second-year report.

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



Example of Adaptive Management in Popes Glen Reserve May 2014



Bushcare Team inspecting construction Popes Glen Headwall, Blackheath June 2014

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