

8<sup>th</sup> November, 2012

# Network News Flash!



## Amazing News on Large Stream Grant

Bushcare is definitely a bipolar experience.

Most of you will be aware that the Popes Glen application for a NSW Environmental Trust grant early this year failed to be evaluated in the first instance and we were advised that it could not be resurrected.

Amazingly, Alan received a phone call from Roza Sage 2 weeks ago, to tell him that The Trust had

seen fit to award the original grant for the full amount.

We received the official paperwork from The Trust this week.

Now, of course, we have a lot of ground to make up, as the original grant timetable has to be reworked for a number of reasons. However, with more than a little help from our friends at Council, and some leeway

allowed by The Trust, we expect to have all the necessary new material ready for presentation well prior to the deadline of 7<sup>th</sup> December. Of course, we are not forgetting the great support from other Mountains Bushcare Groups & individuals.

Just to remind you, the amount of the grant applied for and awarded by The Trust to Popes Glen Bushcare Group is \$233,132 over 6 years.

## Related Publicity

One of the costs of this magnanimous action by The Trust is a lot of publicity.

Firstly, The Hon. Robyn Parker M.P., NSW Minister for the Environment and Chair of The Environmental Trust Board, wants to have some photos taken. This will occur on site, at Popes Glen on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> November.

Naturally, we are keen to agree, as this will be good publicity for both the Bushcare Group itself and

the Blue Mountains Bushcare Network.

In some ways, it might even turn out better for us all that the mix up occurred (wishful thinking).

Due to the large amount of money involved, not just the grant itself, but "in kind" contributions from Council, Mayor Myles will also be in attendance for the photo opportunity. We don't yet know which of the other Councillors might attend; they are all being invited through

Council Publicity Office.

Of course, Roza Sage, Member for Blue Mountains, was instrumental in getting this round of Trust Grants set up in the first place, so will also be welcomed at the publicity morning

All members of the Blue Mountains Bushcare Network are invited to attend.

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

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



11<sup>th</sup> February, 2013

# Network News Flash!



## Progress Report on Popes Glen Grant

Progress on "The Project" continues apace!

The Monitoring and Evaluation Plan with its associated spreadsheets & maps was duly presented to The Trust prior to the December 7<sup>th</sup> deadline.

A little negotiation was required – more sorting out some details in fact – and our Plan was approved by The Trust on 20<sup>th</sup> December, just in

time for Christmas. Needless to say, we kept working over the holiday period, but did take some time off for the festivities.

There has been a lot to do before work can begin. Bore holes have been installed & documented (3 existing + 3 new), as have 8 Photo Points, 5 Frog Listening points, a number of weed & flora survey points and a bird survey area. Bucket-loads of data are being collected! There

has been a lot of measuring, direction taking & GPS coordinates logged. And specifications for the contract work are well under way, with input from PGBG and BM Bushcare Network. (See more on this below).

Council has continued their support of The Project at many levels. You might have seen the publicity photo & articles in BM Gazette & News from the Hill.

## The Steering Committee

I can't remember who it was that first came up with the idea of having The Project overseen & guided by a Steering Committee, but what a great thing it is!

This committee is made up of Council employees, Network members & bushcare group members.

The first meeting was held in Lawson on December 18<sup>th</sup> and dealt with the official creation of the committee and other procedural matters including the project timetable.

The second meeting was held on-site in Blackheath on 29<sup>th</sup> January and this was specifically scheduled at the previous meeting to review the tender documents prepared by Council while viewing the locations mentioned.

The Project Steering Committee was set up to oversee the project and consists of between 6 & 8 members; 2 from PGBG, 2 from Council & 2 from the Network. We are very grateful for the work put into this by Ray & Mike who are the current

Network representatives.

With any luck, the summer storms will have abated by the time we have selected contractors and the work starts. There have been several very sudden, large storm events this season, resulting in huge deposits of silt & gravel into the worksite. Luckily a lot of that has been captured by the existing cell structures, but who knows how much has escaped?

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16<sup>th</sup> June, 2013

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## Progress Report on Popes Glen ET Project

It's almost the end of the First (Financial) Year of the Project, although we didn't get final approval until November 2012. The Trust has been understanding on that issue & will allow us some leeway for year one.

However, we have almost accomplished a full 12 month's work in just 7.

All the necessary base-line data has been collected for our native

vegetation and weeds along with the other indicator surveys we have committed to.

Contracts have been issued on our behalf by Council for bush regeneration, tree felling and earthworks for the first 2 year period. It took the bush-regen contractor less than a week to start work and the initial transformation is just stunning. Luckily we seem to have chosen our

indicator survey sites & photo points wisely. Where there were thick walls of small privet & willow there are now wide open spaces with small red stumps. We can soon start to fill those spaces with natives! Appropriate large willows have been treated & are dying off as I write.

Contractor hours are up to around 75% of predicted. Volunteer administration hours are at 110%!

## Works In Progress

There has been a lot happening, so a couple of photos might be in order.

You can see the red shirts amongst the greenery. While I was watching, it occurred to me that the dozen or so regenerators were acting just like a giant vacuum cleaner. As they passed by, the weeds simply disappeared!

The second photo doesn't need much explanation. It might be a bit hard to see the "red" chainsaw scars at this size, but it's another huge willow on its way to veggie heaven.



Contractors "vacuuming" weeds



How to treat a Willow!

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