

Highbury Aqueduct Reserve

NEW WEBSITE

Natural Resources Adelaide and Mt Lofty Ranges (AMLR) has created a new website for the Highbury Aqueduct Reserve which can be found at:

http://www.naturalresources.sa.gov.au/adelaidemtloftryranges/land/Highbury_Aqueduct_Reserve

This website will provide you with all the latest news regarding the redevelopment of the reserve and how you can get involved. With the creation of the website, the Highbury team has decided to phase out these newsletters and replace them with an e-newsletter available through the site. If you would like to receive the latest news via email please email danielle.boddington@sa.gov.au with your name and email address so you can be placed on an e-newsletter distribution list.

PIONEER COURT COMMUNITY GARDEN

The Pioneer Court Community Garden was established by local residents over 20 years ago when the land was owned by SA Water. The intrepid gardeners turned the 'vacant' land into something more productive by planting fruit and nut trees and vegetables. The garden is now home to over 180 different kinds of fruit and nut trees. If you would like to get involved by leasing a plot to grow your own veggies and/or helping to manage the existing orchard please register your interest with Mario Minuzzo, President Pioneer Court Community Garden Inc. on 0411 604 326 or email minuzzo@tpg.com.au.



VISITOR ACCESS

Work has commenced on a trail in the aqueduct channel near Country Lane. When it is completed the trail will connect with the existing fire access track, near Wicks Rd and Freshford Ave, with the Community Garden on the corner of Historic Drive and Pioneer Court. The trail is being built by four young men from the Aboriginal Learning on Country Programme (ALoC) and a team of nine young men and women from the Green Army Programme. ALoC is a training and employment program for members of the aboriginal community who want to be actively involved in natural resource management. Green Army is a similar youth training programme that supports local environment and heritage conservation projects across Australia. Depending on how much progress is made by these two groups over the next six months the trail may extend into other areas facilitating the opening of the reserve.

STORMWATER MANAGEMENT

Stormwater management works on the corner of Wicks Road and Freshford Avenue have been completed. This work was funded by the Adelaide and Mt Lofty Ranges Natural Resources Management Board to repair erosion caused by stormwater runoff from the adjacent housing estate. The area has been hydromulched with sterile rye grass and will be revegetated during winter. We are hoping to start similar work on the gully near Country Lane later in the year.

FLUKERPOST COMING TO HIGHBURY

The Fluker Post Research Project is a citizen science project designed to allow community members to contribute towards the ongoing care of natural environments by taking photographs from fixed photo-points (FlukerPosts). These are robust location markers, with easy-to-follow instructions, asking passers-by to take photos with a camera or smartphone and submit them to researchers via email. The photos from each site are uploaded to a public webpage. The system creates historical records of the FlukerPost sites so that changes can be monitored over time, assisting researchers and land managers to understand and make decisions about management of the sites. University of SA will be installing a FlukerPost in the Highbury Aqueduct Reserve in the coming months. It will be located next to the trail between Freshford Ave and Nursery Way and will be orientated so that people can take photographs of the drainage line and revegetation. You can see more about the project on the Discovery Circle website: <http://www.discoverycircle.org.au/projects/flukerposts/>



REVEGETATION



Many thanks to Highbury Primary School and all those who came out last year to help us plant seedlings between Freshford Ave and Nursery Way. This area, and the one sown with native grass seeds adjacent Torren View Ct, have been a great success with over 60% survival. Plans are afoot to involve grade 6 students from the school in more plantings this year. Students will revisit last year's plantings to do some infill planting (i.e. replanting seedlings into the areas where there was high mortality). Students from the schools Environmental Forum will also grow and plant native Wallaby grass and Spear grass to boost the prevalence of these species in the reserve.

RESTORATION

The Bush For Life (BFL) site in the remnant Blue gum woodland adjacent Valley View Drive continues to get plenty of attention from a small group of volunteers who visit the site every few weeks to control various weeds. They are holding a mini Bush Action Team event on Saturday 30th May from 9am – 12pm. If you'd like to come along please register your interest by emailing Michelle Peters, BFL Regional Coordinator, at michellep@treesforlife.org.au.

VOLUNTEERING

We also have a regular group of volunteers who help out in the broader reserve by undertaking weed control and looking for new weed outbreaks. They are a pretty dedicated bunch and can barely take a walk in the reserve without pulling out a few pesky weeds. If you are interested in volunteering or have any concerns about the reserve please contact Dave Fraser, Senior Ranger, Natural Resources AMLR, on 8336 0908.