



Resident information sheet
Number 9, June 2018

Highbury Aqueduct Reserve

WHATS HAPPENED SINCE LAST NEWSLETTER

This year has been the projects biggest year for opening the reserve to the public. We have expanded access from 17.5 Hectares (34%) to 38.5 Hectares (75%), and now have over 2.5km of shared use trail linking Boundy Road, Historic Drive, Mulberry Drive and Linear Park. Ongoing works undertaken across the reserve include pest plant control throughout several water courses and revegetation sites, fire mitigation works and stormwater runoff project planning. We look forward to continuing this work into next year, and expanding the reserves trail network.

FUND MY NEIGHBOURHOOD GRANT SUCCESS!

Conservation Volunteers Australia (CVA) in consultation with project staff, have successfully secured a \$150,000 Fund my Neighbourhood Grant for 2018/19, for which CVA will be the project sponsors. The grant will fund the construction of linkage trails across the open areas of the reserve to improve access from the surrounding council parks and adjacent streets and the installation of signage and park furniture along the trail.

Construction of the main trail will continue in block 1 (currently closed to the public) and will link Valley View Drive to Boundy Road. If you would like further details on the location of trails please see updated map here. Visit the Highbury Aqueduct page on the AMLR NRM website <http://www.naturalresources.sa.gov.au/adelaidentloftyranges>. for further information.

STORMWATER MANAGEMENT

In June 2017 civil engineers were engaged to repair a stormwater overflow channel behind Conifer Place in block 2. The Department for Environment & Water (DEW) partnered with the Tea Tree Gully Council (CTTG) to utilise their Hydrojet cleaning system to clear pipe blockages before the civil engineers reconstructed a rock chute to reduce flow rates. Further reshaping and compaction of the overflow channel utilising a cement treated road base followed to ensure stormwater overflows will be diverted away from neighbours' boundary fencing.

Detailed designs and drawings have been completed for repairing the dam wall and a



Repaired stormwater overflow Conifer Place

smaller drainage line both located near Freshford Ave and Country Lane. We are hopeful work can begin on those sites in the near future.

PEST PLANT MANAGEMENT

Average rainfall last year and this year's very dry summer has significantly reduced pest plant growth throughout the reserve compared to previous years. This has allowed us to concentrate on controlling weeds within the water courses in preparation for revegetating these areas. The completed stormwater project site in block 2 near Torrens View Court is responding well to weed control measures with native species planted 12 months ago growing rapidly and overtaking weedy species. Funding secured through AMLRNRM was used to treat almost 1Ha of blackberry,



The cleared gully below the community garden to be revegetated this winter

artichoke and ash trees within the creek line in block 4 with follow up work continuing this year to control any regrowth within the site. This funding was also used to control blackberry within the water course below the community garden. This area was cleared using a large excavator with a mulching attachment in preparation for planting of approximately 1000 native plants this winter. Planting should start in July, so if you are interested in helping out please give the Highbury Senior Ranger a call on 8115 4600.

FIRE MITIGATION

As you are aware fire mitigation works are undertaken across the reserve on an annual basis starting in October. A combination of tractor mounted slashing, brush cutting and spraying is used to reduce the grass height mainly around the boundaries of the reserve. You may have noticed last year that some large open areas that were originally cut with the tractor mounted slasher were changed to brush cutters. This method was undertaken to allow targeted reduction of weed species whilst encouraging existing native grasses to set their seed prior to being slashed for fire reduction.

HIGHBURY PRIMARY SCHOOL SCIENCE WEEK

During science week (September 4th-8th) almost 550 students from Highbury Primary School visited the reserve as part of their 'Our thumbs are green' event. Classes initially spent time at the community garden looking at all the different fruits and vegetables grown by the volunteers before rotating between three activities. The KESAB activity included learning about the do's and don'ts of recycling and composting with a hands on activity 'composting in a bottle'. NRM Education's activity focused on native habitats and ecosystems and water use, this also included spreading of native kangaroo and wallaby grasses as part of the reserves revegetation works. Shanelle Palmer from 'The Bush Classroom' spoke with the students about biodiversity in house gardens and bushland areas with a focus on native bees, European bees and other insects. Students also enjoyed making bee hotels to encourage native bees into backyards. This was an

extremely busy week and thanks must go to all involved for volunteering their time and making it run as smoothly as possible.

GENERAL MAINTENANCE

The reserves tree hazard report was re-evaluated last year. This involved assessing over 790 trees of which 43 required



work. We have completed work on the 27 trees in the open area of the reserve, with the remaining 16 located within the closed section of the reserve, and work will commence once we are closer to opening that area. Arborists returned in May to further expand the report to include the new trail alignments as part of the Fund my Neighbourhood grant. Approximately 600 metres of the old chain mesh security fencing that surrounded the reserve from Boundy Rd, Torrens View Court, Kent Rd, and Historic Dr has now been removed allowing access throughout this part of the reserve. You may have noticed new sections of post and wire fence on Boundy Rd, Historic and Mulberry Drives, these have been installed to direct visitors to the shared use trail and away from the rear of neighbouring houses. The remaining boundary fence at block 4 along Mulberry Drive is currently being removed, and work should be completed by the end of June. Access is still allowed through this block utilising the shared use trail.

Mowing of open areas will continue in block 3 and will be extended into the open circular area in block 2 in which a nature play area may be established in the future.

Installation of new fence near Mulberry Drive

GET INVOLVED

The Highbury Aqueduct **Bush for Life site** is located in Block 1 just off Valley View Drive. Bush for Life are always looking for more volunteers to help protect wonderful remnant bushland. If you think this is something you would be interested in, please contact Mark Hardham, BFL Northern Regional Coordinator Field Officer, on 0417 421 474 or markh@treesforlife.org.au for further information.

The **Pioneer Court Community Garden** includes more than 300 fruit trees, truffle plantation, pumpkin patch, and sensory garden, and is a wonderful place to get involved for a Friday morning working bee followed by morning tea using much of the produce grown on site. Visitors are more than welcome, and if you would like to learn more about the site feel free to come down on a Friday morning and catch up with the members, or speak with Mario Minuzzo, President Pioneer Court Community Garden Inc. on 0411 604 326.

If you are interested in helping out as a volunteer, starting an active **Friends of Highbury Aqueduct Reserve group** or have any queries, comments or concerns about the reserve please contact Tom Lord, Senior Ranger, Natural Resources AMLR, on 8115 4600.