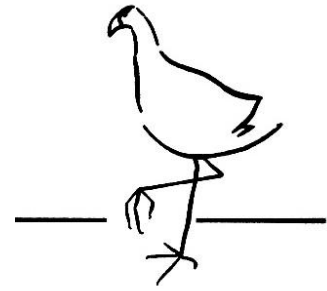


PANBOOLA

Pambula Wetlands and Heritage Project Inc



NEWSLETTER NO: 15 – April, 2009

As for everyone, the years keep slipping away faster than you realise and it is April and this is the first Panboola update for the year. Apologies.

Our Annual General Meeting was held in February and the new Committee elected. We welcomed Lorna Klapka to the Committee and of course Peter officially became President having acted in this position since the resignation of Jay in 2008. The Committee membership is as follows:

President: Peter Roberts

Vice President: Mandi Stevenson

Treasurer: Graham Waldon

Secretary: Gail McCombie

Committee: Rob Bruce, Helen Davies, Lorna Klapka

We were unable to fill all positions at the AGM but happily Ted Hawkins has now joined the Committee. Lucky Helen Davies has taken several months to travel overseas, and we miss her input. However, before Helen left she was instrumental in the drafting of a funding application to the Environmental Trust for funds to allow for the continuation of the Project Coordinator position.

AND WE HAVE BEEN SUCCESSFUL!! The tremendous community support for our project and its environmental significance has been recognised by the New South Wales government with a grant of over \$90, 000 for two years. This will hugely facilitate the management of the project and gives our Project Coordinator some stability for long term planning.

We must also gratefully acknowledge the contribution from the Foundation for National Parks and Wildlife and the Far South Coast Land Care Association who have provided interim funding to allow us to continue with this position for the last several months and up to June when this grant will commence.

Our project will continue to depend on the support of volunteers but the funding of this coordinating and planning position gives the project the necessary oversight and facilitates the planning process.

Our Project Coordinator, Aimee Curtis has finalised two critical planning tools for the project – an annual maintenance schedule and a Business Plan. The Business Plan highlights that we still have a long way to go in achieving all our goals for the site, in particular economic self-

sufficiency continues to be difficult. However, as our major developmental projects are established and the physical management of the site turns more to maintenance then we

hope that we can develop more educational signage and other resources to promote the use of the area and some income from ecotourism etc.

Having said that we still have some major projects.

Shed Update. The water tank will be installed and for the first time there will be potable water on site. This will be the end of the work on the shed. It is proving very functional and a big asset to the project.

The Riparian Plantings are being undertaken by a work crew under the guidance of Jock Waugh in tandem with the restoration work to be finalised in the Marsh paddock. Funding through the Envirofund round 10 is supporting this work. Future plantings are planned for Yowaka St and Munje St over the next three years. This work will depend upon the success of a Caring for Country grant application which was submitted by the Project in April. The area along the access path is the only remaining area in which we plan to undertake intensive planting in the medium term.

Main Bullara St Entrance. We have just received planning approval for the entrance from the Council and expect work to commence shortly. A stone mason has been selected for the feature rock wall and we are canvassing ideas for a feature sculpture to complete this area. Hopefully, it will provide the project with an inviting and interesting entry way.

Weed Control. With so many of our resources having been devoted to the construction of the shed the weeds in some areas became a major task for volunteers and work crews to control. Chemical control by spot spraying has been necessary this year due to an exceptional number of blackberry plants emerging across the flood plain. .

A Project which has been completed is the 'Saltmarsh Rehabilitation Project'. This involved the creation of a 20m wide wildlife corridor which runs across the floodplain and is the start of linking the waterbird sanctuary up to the neighbouring national park. The work involved included putting in 1 ½ km of fencing and planting 3000 tube stock as well as direct seeding with trees, shrubs and sedges. This project also added an extra recreational facility as there is a track running through the corridor.

MESSAGE FROM THE RESERVE TRUST

The Pambula Wetlands and Heritage Reserve Trust which manages the Crown Land/Racecourse portion of land within Panboola reports that improvements and repairs continue at the site. Usage of the race track, especially by bike riders is increasing dramatically. The Merimbula Bike Hire is heavily promoting Panboola with rave reports from hirers.



The track has had extra fill added and now presents as a smoother surface for all users. In keeping with the aim to maintain the heritage of the Old Racecourse, the distance markers, some still standing but faded, have been replaced using Crown Reserve Management Funding. The new posts and signs were installed using volunteer labour, thus reducing the cost to the Trust.

A sign describing the importance of saltmarsh, present in a large area within the racecourse, was also installed by the volunteers. This sturdy sign was donated by the Catchment Management Authority and NPWS and features a White-fronted Chat, likely to be seen on the saltmarsh.



The Trust thanks all concerned with these significant improvements to the Reserve.