



## FRIENDS OF FOGG DAM INC. ACHIEVEMENTS & STRATEGIC PLAN 2016 – 2020 2016

### **Vision:**

To protect and enhance Fogg Dam Conservation reserve and wetlands as a place with a diverse, secure and healthy natural environment cared for and appreciated by all.

**To raise awareness of Fogg Dam and promote its beauty and biodiversity.**

### **Principal Purpose:**

**To protect and enhance Fogg Dam Conservation reserve and wetlands.**

### **Objectives are to:**

- 1 protect and enhance the natural environment and biodiversity of Fogg Dam Conservation reserve and wetlands.
- 2 provide information about the natural environment of Fogg Dam Conservation reserve and wetlands.
- 3 encourage community involvement and provide input into Parks and Wildlife Management Plan for Fogg Dam Conservation Reserve and wetlands.

### **Secondary activities:**

- 4 support the protection of historic and cultural information;
- 5 improve visitor facilities and provide input into visitor management; and
- 6 assist visitors to enjoy, understand and appreciate the Fogg Dam Conservation reserve and wetlands.

**Objective 1 To protect and enhance the natural environment and biodiversity of Fogg Dam Conservation Reserve & wetlands.**

Actions (what)	Timeframe (when)	Responsibility (who)
<p><b>1. Identify strategic conservation and biodiversity work to be undertaken at Fogg Dam in collaboration with Fogg Dam Parks &amp; Wildlife.</b></p> <p>I. Weed control            II. Fire prevention            III. Water management            IV. Feral infestation            V. Visitor management</p> <p><b>2. Work in collaboration with other volunteer &amp; other groups to improve the conservation and biodiversity of Fogg Dam</b></p> <p>i. Identify volunteer and other groups who may be able to assist and their functions.</p> <p>ii. Collaborate with Parks &amp; Wildlife and seek funding to open up more water at Fogg Dam to make it more like it was originally when it attracted a greater variety of birdlife.</p> <p>iii. Initiate or participate in joint projects as appropriate</p>	<p>Ongoing            “            “            “            “</p> <p>Ongoing            “            “</p>	<p>Exec with P&amp;W            “            “            “</p> <p>Committee            Executive            Executive</p>

**Performance measures**

Weed control

- 2007 to & including 2015 Regular working bees which have weeding as a major focus.
- 2010, obtained \$4,700 NT NRMB Caring for Country Grant to work with Parks & Wildlife (P&W) to control Olive hymenachne in the Fogg Dam catchment area
- 2011 Obtained \$8,000 EnvironmeNT Grant to continue working with P&W to control Olive hymenachne in the Fogg Dam catchment area in 2012.
- 2013 Obtained \$10,000 EnvironmeNT Grant to continue working with P&W with control of Olive hymenachne in 2014.
- 2014-15 Obtained \$10,000 Territory NRM grant to work with P&W to control Olive hymenachne.
- 2015 Applied for Community Benefit Fund to purchase a Mud-ox amphibious vehicle to access otherwise inaccessible weed in tree line. Unsuccessful.
- 2015-16 Obtained \$25,000 Territory NRM grant to work with P&W to control Olive hymenachne and other weeds.
- 2015 Work for the dole people working at Fogg Dam via the Commonwealth Gov't through Ironbark Employment.
- 2015 Successfully applied for Community Benefit Fund grant to purchase a drone which will enhance monitoring and evaluation of weed control program.

### **2016 Activity**

- Continue with grant to work with P&W to control Olive hymenachne and other weeds.
- Submit another application to Community Benefit Fund for Mud-ox amphibious vehicle for improved access to control weeds.

### **Fire prevention**

- Ongoing weed control
- 2015 helped putting out smouldering fire alongside Monsoon Forest walk.

### **Water Management**

- Supported the study of aquatic vegetation in Fogg Dam by Honours student of Charles Darwin University in 2009-10.
- July 2010, with endorsement of Traditional Owners & University of Sydney, submitted Wetland proposal to P&W to create open water for birds on the floodplain below causeway.
- 2011 discussed Wetland proposal with Minister and Parks personnel.
- 2013 requested meeting with Joint Management Committee to discuss Wetland proposal.
- 2013 Lobbied Minister to take advantage of dry wet season to burn vegetation in the dam, insert sluice gate under the causeway & implement Wetland proposal – no action.
- 2014, \$80,000 allocated to implement Wetland Proposal – however not spent.
- May 2014, FOFD obtained funding with P&W to purchase Weed Harvester. Obtained \$5,000 grant from Bendigo Bank Coolalinga & Districts Community Bank plus significant community support to transport and equip harvester.
- 2015 continue to support P&W to increase open water at Fogg Dam.
- 2015 wrote to Minister re Wetland Proposal – reply said that cost was now in excess of \$500,000 due to risks associated with acid soil and need to neutralise area with lime.

### **2016 Activity**

- Continue to support P&W to increase open water at Fogg Dam.
- Poor wet season provides an opportunity to install sluice gate under the causeway and burn weeds in dam.
- Consider Wetland Proposal options, alternatives.

### **Feral Infestation**

- 2015 Pigs identified as an issue, added to strategic plan and control proposal put to P&W in December.

### **2016 Activity**

- Ongoing consultation with P&W to implement a pig control program.

### **Visitor Management**

- 2008 handed out questionnaires to Fogg Dam visitors to obtain information for P&W.
- 2010 consulted by P&W about revision of 'Bird Panels' at the dam.
- 2014 assisted P&W to count visitors to Fogg Dam.
- 2015 assisted P&W to count visitors to Fogg Dam.

### **Volunteer & other groups who may be able to assist**

- 2007 on partnership with LandCare.
- 2008, 2010, 2012 CDU students and Darwin Yoga School students assisted as volunteers at Field Days.
- 2012 & 2013 partnership with Conservation Volunteers Aust. (CVA).
- 2013 Casual assistance from Charles Darwin University, Humpty Doo Girl Guides.
- 2015 Participated in formation of Landcare NT.
- 2014-6 Participated with CVA Green Army Program funding young people – main work has been weeding and pruning.

### **2016 Activity**

- Continue to work with CVA and Green Army Program one day per month.
- Initiate investigation to propose Fogg Dam to become a Ramsar site.

### **Collaborate with Parks & Wildlife to seek funding**

- All weed funding proposals have been prepared jointly with P&W and submitted by FOFD as Government agencies are ineligible to apply for funding.

### **Joint projects**

- 2012-2014 Participated in Corridors of Green project, managed by CVA, with Casuarina, McMinns Lagoon, Mitchell Creek, East Point, Ludmilla, Tiwi, Knuckey Lagoon & Coomalie Landcare groups with funding of \$374,000 over 3 years for revegetation, restoration, weed control, public awareness and education. The grant funded CVA volunteers to weed at Fogg Dam.
- 2015, 2016 With CVA participated in Green Army Program funded by the Commonwealth.

**Objective 2 To provide information about the natural environment of Fogg Dam Conservation reserve & wetlands.**

Actions (what)	Timeframe (when)	Responsibility (who)
1. Develop flora and fauna species lists for: birds; frogs; snakes; butterflies; mammals; reptiles; amphibians; and plants.	Completed	Heather
2. Develop & maintain relationships with educational institutions associated with Fogg Dam.	Ongoing	Executive
3. Provide information on FOFD website, facebook pages and newsletters.	Ongoing	Alan Marshall
4. Monitor birdlife on and around the dam.	Ongoing	Lyn & Brian Reid
5. Monitor the extent of open water along causeway.	Ongoing	Jeremy Hemphill
6. Hold a Field Day or other function bi-annually, whenever possible.	Ongoing	Committee
7. Promote the concept of a Wetland Research, Education & Resource Centre at Fogg Dam.	Ongoing	Committee

**Performance Measures**

**1 Flora & fauna species lists**

- o 2008 Species lists completed

**2 Develop & maintain relationships with educational institutions associated with Fogg Dam**

- o 2007 & ongoing. FOFD invite staff of University of Sydney Tropical Ecology Research Centre to give talks to members about their research.
- o 2008 Staff from University of Sydney and CDU both gave talks at FOFD Field Day held in April.
- o 2008 Proposed a Research, Education & Resource Centre at Fogg Dam in submission to P&W review of management plan for Adelaide River Park.
- o 2009-2010 Supported the study of aquatic vegetation in Fogg Dam by Honours student of Charles Darwin University in 2009-10. Completed July 2010, published 2012.
- o 2009 Presentation given to Aust. & NZ Society of Ecological Economics group.
- o 2010 Staff from University of Sydney and CDU both gave talks at FOFD Field Day.
- o 2010 Presentation at Fogg Dam by Alice Leppitt of her study of Fogg Dam aquatic vegetation on 20 June 2010.
- o 2012 Staff from University of Sydney and CDU both gave talks at FOFD Field Day.
- o 2013 Created link on website to online book by Uni. of Sydney staff, 'Fogg Dam - How Scientist's See Nature.'
- o 2013, 2014, 2015 FOFD has given talks to Cert. 3 Land Resource Management students at CDU.

**2016 Activity**

- o Continue with links to University of Sydney and CDU.

### **3 Provide information on FOFD website and facebook pages and other ways.**

- 2008 Website created by Peter Walker of Imagineer at no cost.
- 2008 Birding brochure for Fogg Dam developed.
- 2009 Interpretive shelter developed and officially opened.
- 2011 Facebook page created and Newsletters initiated – distributed 3.
- 2012 Facebook & website continued. Distributed 2 Newsletters.
- 2013 Facebook & website continued. Distributed 2 Newsletters.
- 2014 Facebook & website continued. Google + page created. Distributed 3 Newsletters.
- 2014 FOFD rep. interviewed for BBC radio program, 'Costing the Earth' about the Humpty Doo Rice Project.'
- Participated in Landcare Display at Greening Australia 'Farewell to the Wet' on March 1 & 2.
- 2015 New enhanced Facebook page created with much greater participation. Website continued. Flickr page created. Distributed 3 Newsletters.

#### **2016 Activity**

- Continue to maintain Facebook and website and providing media releases to newspapers.

### **4 Monitor birdlife around the dam**

- 2015 Monthly bird counts commenced.

#### **2016 Activity**

- Continue monthly bird counts.

### **5 Monitor the extent of open water along causeway**

- 2012 3x photopoints at each lookout along causeway identified for monthly photographs – ongoing.

#### **2016 Activity**

- Continue monthly photos from photopoints.

### **6 Hold a Field Day or other function biannually, whenever possible.**

- 2008 Field Day with informative talks and walks held.
- 2010 Field Day informative talks and walks held.
- 2012 Field Day informative talks and walks held.
- 2016 Appointed Artist at Fogg Dam for 23 months with Art Exhibition in October.

#### **2016 Activity**

- Continue Artist at Fogg Dam and Art Exhibition commencing at Tactile Art Gallery on 7 October.
- Establish working committee to plan for Field Day in 2017.

### **7 Promote Wetland Research, Education & Research Centre at Fogg Dam.**

- 2008 & 2013 Proposal included in FOFD submission on draft Management Plan for Adelaide River Parks.

**Objective 3 Encourage community involvement & provide input into Parks and Wildlife Management Plan for Fogg Dam Conservation Reserve & wetlands.**

	<b>Actions (what)</b>	<b>Timeframe (when)</b>	<b>Responsibility (who)</b>
1	Provide input and support Parks & Wildlife and the Joint Management Committee in managing the Reserve.	Ongoing	Executive
2	Explore avenues to encourage schools to include Fogg Dam in environmental projects.	"	Committee
3	Develop links with researchers and educational facilities.	"	Committee
4	Promote the dam and encourage community involvement.	"	Committee

**Performance Measures**

- 1. Provide input and support Parks & Wildlife and the Joint Management Committee in managing the Reserve.**
  - 2007, 2008, 2009 2011 & 2012 meetings with Parks & Wildlife re management plans.
  - 2008, 2013 & 2014 FOFD made formal submissions to the Draft Joint Management Plan of Adelaide River Parks.
  - 2010 Consulted by P&W on revised 'Bird Panels' for the lookouts at the dam.
  
- 2. Explore avenues to encourage schools to include Fogg Dam in environmental projects.**
  - 2008, 2009 & 2012 meetings with Middle Point School.
  - 2008 Collaboration with Middle Point School re Environment & Conservation curriculum with care of Wollemi pine.
  - 2009 July 23 Collaborative launch of the Fogg Dam Interpretive Shelter with Traditional Owners & Middle Point School – children gave presentation.
  - 2012 Middle Point School provided display of art work at Field Day.
  
- 3. Develop links with researchers and educational facilities.**
  - See details for objective 2.2
  
- 4. Promote the dam & encourage community involvement.**
  - 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015 regular working bees held at the dam.
  - 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013 participated in World Environment Day with a stall at Tropical Garden Spectacular & Top End Sustainable Living Festival.
  - Media releases provided about happenings at Fogg Dam.
  - 2008 Lobbied NT Government for over 1 year to provide bus transport for (TO) children from Humpty Doo Station to Schools – achieved Oct 2009.
  - 2008 Field Day attended by 400, positive evaluation. Local businesses donated prizes.
  - 2009 With funding from Telstra Shop & Business Centre purchased container to store equipment and documents.
  - 2010 Field Day attended by 662, positive evaluation. Local businesses donated prizes.
  - 2010 Presentation at Fogg Dam to Cub Scouts..

- 2012 Field (1/2) Day attended by 526 with positive evaluation. Local businesses donated prizes.
- 2013 FOFD awarded NT Qantas Innovative Landcare Community Group Award.
- 2014 Participated on CVA Corridors of Green stall at Tropical Garden Spectacular & Top End Sustainable Living Festival.
- 2014 Purchased 2<sup>nd</sup> hand Weed Harvester with \$5,000 grant from Bendigo Bank, \$10,000 from P&W & support in kind from 12 local businesses.
- 2014 FOFD received high commendation for National Qantas Innovative Community Group Award.
- 2015 Additional contributions in kind for the weed harvester.
- 2015 FOFD received high commendation for Best Territory Urban Natural Resource Management Group Award.
- 2015 Held a Wildlife Walk at Fogg Dam to celebrate Earth Hour, attended by approximately 30 people.

### **Newspaper articles**

2007–2012 Records not kept.

2013

- Media release published in NT News about Humpty Doo Rice Trail. Media release in Sun Newspaper about weed control at Fogg Dam.
- 9 October front page Sun Newspaper with story inside about Humpty Doo Rice Trail.
- 13 Nov front page Litchfield Sun and article inside about Olive hymenachne weed at Fogg Dam and FOFD efforts to control it.

2014

- 26 Feb Sun Newspaper article about abundant birds with overflowing water;
- 17 Sep front page Sun Newspaper and article inside about purchase of the weed harvester.

2015

- Member photograph of Fogg Dam on front page of NT News 2 March (someone taking a selfie with fresh water croc).
- Feature in 29 Apr Sun Newspapers about launch of weed harvester and the community support.
- July 15, Sun Newspaper story about the Green Army.
- August 7, front page of Rural Weekly featured Ranger of the Year Awarded to Fogg Dam Ranger, Dave McLachlan (supported by FOFD).
- Dec 20, NT News obituary about member, Strider.

2016

- 20 Jan, front page photo and story inside Sun Newspaper about Artist at Fogg Dam.

### **2016 Activity**

- Plan and hold Wildlife Walk for Earth Hour on 19 March.
- Establish committee to plan 2017 Field Day on 22 April or 6 May
- Continue to send media releases to newspapers.



**Objective 4 Support the protection of historic and cultural information.**

	<b>Actions (what)</b>	<b>Timeframe (when)</b>	<b>Responsibility (who)</b>
1	Support the Wulna Traditional Owners in recognition of the Aboriginal cultural heritage of Fogg Dam.	Ongoing	Committee
2	Collect history of the Humpty Doo Rice Project.	Ongoing	Jeremy & Committee

**Performance measures**

**1 Support the Wulna Traditional Owners in recognition of the Aboriginal cultural heritage of Fogg Dam.**

- 2006 Traditional Owners (TO's) consulted and approved the establishment of FOFD.
- 2007 onwards TO's acknowledged at all formal events.
- 2008 Website launched with cultural information.
- 2008 Lobbied NT Gov't to provide transport for children at Humpty Doo Station to attend schools – achieved in Oct. 2009.
- 2008 TO's welcomed visitors to country for the Field Day and guided a Bush Tucker Walk.
- 2009 Fogg Dam listed as a Heritage Site.
- 2009 TO's performed a traditional dance at the launch of the Interpretive Shelter.
- 2010 TO's welcomed visitors to country for the Field Day and guided a Bush Tucker Walk.
- 2012 TO's welcomed visitors to country for the Field Day and also held a stall for their tourism business and a food stall.
- 2015 TO's approved the Artist at the Dam project and agreed to be involved.

**2016 Activity**

- Continue to acknowledge and consult TO's about activities.

**2. Collect history of the Humpty Doo Rice Project**

- Ongoing collection of reference material about the Humpty Doo Rice Project.
- Ongoing identification of locations where Humpty Doo Rice Project equipment exist.
- 2008 & 2010 Presentations about the Humpty Doo Rice Project given at the Field Days.
- 2009 Fogg Dam became Heritage Listed in May.
- 2011 With NT Heritage grant produced a booklet on the history of Humpty Doo Rice Project which was posted on the FOFD website.
- 2012 Poster about Humpty Doo Rice Project & Trail at Field Day.
- 2013 With NT Heritage grant created a website, brochure, pamphlet, audio and driver's guide for the Humpty Doo Rice Trail to visit sites and relics of the Humpty Doo Rice Project and revised the online booklet.
- 2013 Officially launched the Humpty Doo Rice Trail at Tourism Top End in October.
- 2013 Gave a guided tour of Humpty Doo Rice Trail for Territory Natural Resource Management Field Trip.
- 2013 Presentation about Humpty Doo Rice Trail to University of 3<sup>rd</sup> Age.
- 2014 Gave National Trust a tour of the Humpty Doo Rice Trail during Heritage Week.
- 2014 Presentation about Humpty Doo Rice Trail at Taminmin Community Library.

## Objective 5 Improve visitor facilities and provide input into visitor management

	<b>Actions (what)</b>	<b>Timeframe (when)</b>	<b>Responsibility (who)</b>
1	Identify and report needs or suggest improvements for visitors.	Ongoing	Committee
2	Report need for infrastructure repairs, maintenance or requirements.	Ongoing	Committee

### Performance measures

#### Identify and report needs or suggest improvements for visitors.

- 2007 Installation of FOFD welcome/information sign, installed by P&W.
- 2007 Collected visitor information via surveys over two days for P&W.
- 2007 Water for hand washing facility installed at toilet following request by FOFD.
- 2012 Field Day included a session for visitors to identify needs - forwarded to P&W with the Field Day evaluation.
- 2014 Collected visitor numbers for P&W.

#### Infrastructure repairs, maintenance and requirements.

- 2008 After intense lobbying and petition to LA, NT Gov't committed 1.25M to rebuild the Monsoon Forest Walk. Reconstruction commenced late 2008.
- 2008 FOFD applied preservative to boardwalks, rails and seats.
- 2009 Reported urgent OH&S need to repair west end of causeway - acted upon.
- 2010 Requested pot holes on causeway to be repaired after the wet season - actioned.
- 2011 FOFD applied preservative to floor and seats of viewing lookouts.
- 2011 FOFD painted viewing lookouts.
- 2011 FOFD applied preservative to floor and seats of Pandanus Lookout.
- 2014 Additional toilet sign installed following request from FOFD.
- 2014 FOFD applied preservative to floor and seats of all three Lookouts early & late in the year.
- 2014 FOFD bleached bridge floorboards to remove slippery mould.
- 2014 FOFD replaced damaged floorboards in Pandanus Lookout.

#### Outstanding infrastructure requests with P&W

- 2009> Requested additional toilet on west side - advised these are on Minor New Works List.
- 2009> Requested picnic tables with seating - advised on Minor New Works.
- 2012> Requested: extension to the beginning of Woodland to Water Lily boardwalk as it floods each wet season; & picnic tables.

#### 2016 Activity

- Increase security of donation box door.

### Infrastructure Issues/Events

- 2009 Monsoon Forest Boardwalk re-opened 31 Sep.
- 2010 Monsoon Forest Boardwalk officially opened by Minister in April
- 2014 Almost completed replacement Woodland to Water Lily boardwalk burned in arson. Repaired & reopened late 2015.
- 2015 Arson attacks: first near the rotunda, then Pandanus Lookout.
- 2015 October, two arson attacks on the loop of the Monsoon Forest walk causing in excess of \$100,000 damage. Walk partially closed.

### Objective 6 Assist visitors to enjoy, understand & appreciate the Fogg Dam Conservation reserve & wetlands.

Actions (what)	Timeframe (when)	Responsibility (who)
See strategies, achievements and activities for Objective 2.		