



Newsletter

Issue 6 October 2013

Annual General Meeting

The AGM is to be held on Sunday 27th October, 2.30pm at the Community Room in MLA Kezia Purick's Coolalinga office, followed by a General Meeting.

Attendance of members is important to ensure we have a quorum.

Humpty Doo Rice Trail

On Thursday 3 October, Ms Kezia Purick, Speaker of the NT Legislative Assembly and Member for Goyder, launched the Humpty Doo Rice Trail at an October Business month event hosted by Tourism Top End. The Rice Trail was created by Friends of Fogg Dam with a \$10,000 NT Heritage grant. It takes people on a historic journey from Darwin to the Adelaide River to see locations and relics of the 1950s-1960s Humpty Doo rice project that was of international interest at the time. The www.ricetrail.com.au website includes an audio history of the rice project and a driver's guide, both of which can be downloaded to computers, smartphones and tablets. Roadside markers were designed and installed at key locations along the Trail. A brochure, pamphlet and booklet were also prepared.

The rice trail launch preceded a talk by John Anderson, founder of Contiki Travel. Our thanks to Tourism To End for hosting the Rice Trail launch.



Former CSIRO scientist Tony Hooper was MC for the launch



Kezia Purick, MLA launches the Humpty Doo Rice Trail



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The Dam today

Fogg Dam is suffering from the poor 2012-13 wet season, with the bottom exposed in the channel beside the dam wall and between the dam wall and the crocodile trap. The photos below show how the water depth in the channel has changed since February 2012.

While we are unable to do anything practical to fill the dam, rain dances excluded, the floodplain and dam surrounds are now sufficiently dry for us to tackle the invasive Olive Hymenachne weed.



26 February 2012: view from lookout towards spillway



18 October 2013: view from spillway towards lookout

Working Bee - 22 September

The last working bee was well attended and we were able to do a number of different things. The timber was oiled in all the shelters along the dam wall and Pandanus lookout. Using a 4wd equipped with a Quickspray unit and 3 quad bikes, Olive Hymenachne was sprayed from Pandanus lookout to the gravel slope half way along the dam wall. The next working bee will be on Sunday 24 November, starting at 9.00am.





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Environment Grant

Friends of Fogg Dam has recently been awarded a \$10,00 Environment Grant by the NT government to work with the Parks and Wildlife Commission to help control Olive Hymenachne at Fogg Dam. Work commenced at our 22 September Working Bee. With the floodplain dry, we were able to get out to re-treat areas that had been sprayed with glyphosate herbicide earlier in the year by helicopter, quad bike and 4wd.

Of concern, Olive Hymenachne has been identified within five properties that drain into Fogg Dam Conservation Reserve.



Encouraging sign - browning-off of extensive Olive Hymenachne surrounding the Pandanus Lookout pond - just 2 weeks after spraying.

Conservation Volunteers

As part of its \$250,000 Corridors of Green project, Conservation Volunteers Australia has been weeding Snake Weed and Devil's Fig at Fogg Dam and repairing fences. They've made a tremendous impact, removing lots of snake weed beside and within the bush of the Monsoon and Waterlily walks and the entrance road of the Park, known as Harrison Road during the rice project.



One of the CVA volunteer crews



Derelict Farley Channeller near the Ranger Station

Photos

Do you have any great photos of Fogg Dam? Our website is being revamped and we'd love to include some of your photos. We are happy to name credit any photos used. Please send them to info@foggdamfriends.org