

Oh What a Wonderful Feeling...

by Barry Lees

NOV 2014



Planting trees gives me a great feeling of satisfaction, and a secret smile for a week after. It seems this feeling was shared by volunteers who turned up in September to plant trees and shrubs on a property in Blacks Road Arcadia.

Landcare contractors had cleared 3 acres of dense privet, as part of a strategy to reduce bellbird numbers. This clearing let the sunshine in, and thousands of privets and other weeds sprang from the ground. We cleared many of these with more to go. Some natives also came up, each one welcomed with a smile. Meanwhile the volunteers at Hornsby Council Community Nursery were growing hundreds of native trees and shrubs for us.



We planned two planting days. Holes were dug and materials laid out. The call went out for volunteers to help and on 21st September an amazing 48 people arrived, aged 5 to 75. After explanations of why and how, we planted 565 shrubs and trees, complete with mats, plastic sleeves and water, and that's before morning tea! As the organiser, I was very happy! We finished off with fresh scones, jam, cream and other delights. Many promised to return the following week for more punishment.

On September 28th, 33 people returned to plant 200 grasses and sedges in quick time. At the back of the property we turned around, picked up buckets and watered everything planted the previous week, arriving at the front fence with time remaining. So we turned around and headed back pulling out hundreds of privet seedlings before the morning tea bell rang out. Yes, you guessed it, more delicious scones, jam and cream.

The place is now a sea of plastic sleeves among the big trees. The landowner's task is to keep them alive through summer, then they can fend for themselves. Of course, the weeds are still coming....

I want to thank the landowner and his family, Landcare members, the various contractors involved, the Community Nursery and most of all, the volunteers who arrived not quite knowing what they were in for. You've all done very well!

For more information, contact Landcare on www.stillcreeklandcare.com.au or facebook.

Cumberland Orchid Circle Inc.continued

our shows & display. The committee would like to extend an invitation to not only our Members but also their partners, family and friends to join us on Wednesday, 26th November 2014 for this festive occasion. The young children or grandchildren of our members are very welcome at this party.

It is intended to have a short meeting starting at 8.00pm to commence the evening, and then break for our party. The Annual Point Score presentation will be performed at an appropriate time during the evening.

There will be no point score competition this night. Instead Members are asked to bring 1 or 2, at the most, plants to bench for a popular vote prize. There will be no open, or novice sections. There will also be a lucky door prize for one lady and one gentleman present.

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