

MELALEUCA UPDATE

Summer started at Melaleuca with some new additions to the Deny King Heritage Museum. One of Deny King's favourite quotes "Those who drink the buttongrass water always return" welcomes visitors to the museum. It is screwed on the wall inside the entry porch. The lettering was routed (by Around the Twist at Electrona) into a huon pine plank with history. Deny King collected some drift huon pine logs from around Bathurst Harbour when he was building his house at Melaleuca back in the 1940s. This one was left over. The Channel Mens Shed



Janet painting the lettering in the routed sign

kindly thickened the plank for Friends of Melaleuca for the purpose of creating this piece.

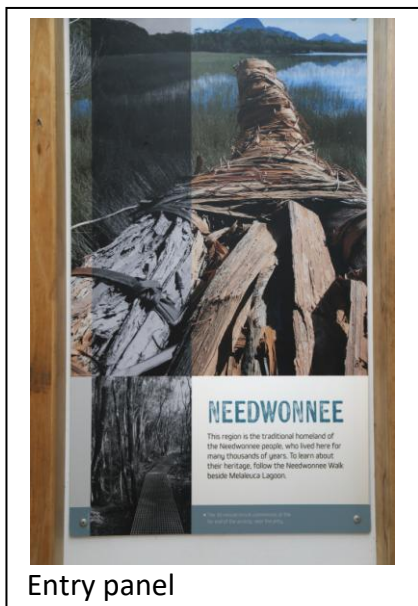
Another two interpretation panels on aluminium composite were screwed on the wall in the museum. One panel recognises the Needwonnee people, and features the bark canoe on the Needwonnee walk. The other, an illustration of moorland habitat, demonstrates the diversity of life on the plains, including invertebrates and plants.

We added new books to the reference shelf in the museum: Two beautiful photographic books by Richard Bennett, and Peter Conrad's Down Home. New metal bookends folded by Geoff and powder coated at Doble Industries help to hold heavy books on the shelves.

Helen and Mick Statham found a corroded pair of binoculars in the bush near Pandora Hill. The binoculars make an amusing exhibit (though probably not if you recognise them as yours!) screwed to the windowframe near the telescope. Oh, the sad fate of binoculars lost in wet bush!



Moorland display



Entry panel

PWS volunteer caretaker David Bobo put some UV blockout film on the northern windows in the museum to reduce fading of printed panels and exhibits. Thanks Ian Marmion for procuring the blockout film. The printed interpretation panels are holding up well with no sign of fading so far. There is a little bit of scratching on the panels located on the sloping bench areas, especially near the telescope as people viewing the birds put cameras etc on them. These panels will probably need replacing more frequently than the others.

At Claytons Corner the large water tank that delivers water for boats at the jetty has been a source of complaint for years. PWS Caretaker Stephen Anstee discovered the mysterious leak at the bottom of the tank in November. In December/January Geoff Fenton, with Caretaker David Bobo set about repairing the half-metre long split. Geoff cut a man-hole in the tank so a ladder could be used to access the inside. The tank was cleaned out and dried, then aluminium and stainless steel patches were screwed on over a lot of sikkaflex. Slid treated pine planks under the tank for a more even bed. Cross fingers that it will hold water! David and Geoff also replaced the rusted winch on the northern slipway at the Narrows crossing.

Next on the Friends of Melaleuca schedule is the annual working bee on 12-19 March. Thanks to the those willing workers who have volunteered.