

WILDCARE: FRIENDS OF LUMEAH POINT



Newsletter March 2017

Friends of Lumeah Point

We have had something of a hiatus for various reasons and newcomers to the area might appreciate some background to this mob who have just dropped a newsletter in your mailbox. I will keep it brief and am happy to chat to anyone wanting more information or perhaps interested in getting involved.

On 3 March 2013, 29 residents attended a meeting to discuss a proposal from Crown Lands Services that a boom gate might be erected to prevent vehicular access to the foreshore. A small working group was formed to investigate the issues residents raised. Once some projects had been proposed the group formed the Wildcare: Friends of Lumeah Point; to provide a formal body to apply for grants, liaise with residents and Crown Lands Services, and ensure public liability cover for any community working bees such as feral oyster removal.

Some track surface repair has ensued as well as three successful seasons of feral oyster removal. The outbreak of Pacific Oyster Mortality Syndrome (POMS) last summer has led to the suspension of oyster removal until the Pipeclay Lagoon Oyster Growers Association has an authorized program and process for it. Track surface and erosion mitigation has also been suspended as there is not yet community consensus on the nature and scope of this work.

Background documents may be found at <http://wildcaretas.org.au/branches/wildcare-lumeah-point/>.

Roadside native planting

In collaboration with the Clarence City Council's Natural Assets Officer we have obtained a CCC Land and Coast Care Grant to replant the northern verge of Honeywood Drive with native plant species. As part of the council's *Morrisby Gum Flora Recovery Plan* Morrisby Gums (*eucalyptus morrisbyi*) will form the bulk of the over story, along with other native shrubs and groundcover.

Preparatory work will commence in March and include the removal of Briar Rose and other exotic weeds. Planting is expected to commence in April after which we have committed to watering and maintenance as required.

Feral Oyster Removal

As mentioned, all feral oyster removal ceased at the outbreak of POMS last summer. In fact, we had forty plus bags waiting on the foreshore just prior to the ban on oyster material movements being enacted. After some weeks and an increasing "presence", on the day before the ban one of our members loaded these bags onto his trailer and took them to Copping landfill. Some debate ensued as to whether to wash or burn his clothes afterwards.

The POMS virus will now be entrenched in the feral oysters and it revives as the water temperature rises. A consequence will be that removal must be done in the cooler months. As soon as we have advice from the Pipeclay Lagoon Oyster Growers Association we will organize a schedule and recommence the cleanup.

Communication

If you have not done so already please email garry.hulme@gmail.com subject "Wildcare" to get on our electronic distribution list.