

Karawatha Forest Protection Society Inc.



Karawatha News



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NEWSLETTER AUGUST 2016

DATE CLAIMER

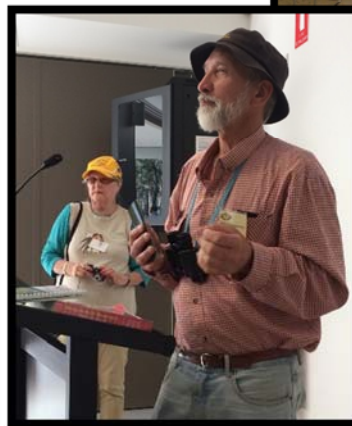
Next KFPS General Meeting ~ Saturday 20th August 2016 ~ 11AM -12.30 PM
At the Discovery Centre, Acacia Road. Light lunch provided. All welcome.

Come and learn about the Karawatha Forest, its history, its importance and its future. After the presentation, please stay and have an informal chat with members of the KFPS committee over lunch.

Peaks to Points Festival Event in Karawatha

Our walk was a wonderful success, we had 65 attend. In the Discovery Centre meeting room we had a quick welcome by Jill Fechner and a short talk by John Moss from the Butterfly and Other Invertebrates Club. We then split into 4 groups. The bird lovers went with their guide Kathy Clark, Paula Ross took the group of cubs from Sunnybank, Rob Hinxman lead a group looking at native plants and John Moss lead a group looking at invertebrates and native plants. It was a very warm day for July but we were thrilled with the level of participation and the keen interest of all who attended.

Images from top: the group listening to opening talk; John Moss and Paula Ross; stunning colour of Australia's Emperor Web-cap Fungi (*Cortinarius archeri*); the cubs with Paula at the top of The Rocks circuit; sharp eyes found a Black Jezebel (*Delias nigrina*) butterfly pupa near the Variable Mistletoe (*Amyema* congener) that is its host plant.



Koala survey by Taz, the Koala Detection Dog

Paula Ross and Jill Fechner were very lucky to tag along for the day when Olivia and Alex from OWAD Environment donated a day of their time with Taz to KFPS. Taz, an English Springer Spaniel, can find even a single old scat in the most complex ground layer in record time. Taz was originally trained as a search & rescue dog by Steve Austen who is recognised worldwide as one of the leaders in scent detection dog training.

At each location Olivia sends Taz seeking Koala for 5 minutes or until she detects scats. That doesn't seem very long but Taz can cover a lot of ground in 5 minutes. She has a GPS tracking collar so we can see on a map how she works to detect a scent cone that leads her to scats. She is rewarded with her ball that she adores.

We did 19 transects, in total Taz sniffed for 9kms. We found scats at 6 sites which gives us a Koala presence of 31.5% in the 2 sections surveyed. Sadly, we

discovered the remains of a dead koala at one site, the reason unclear. Note that Taz did not find it, she is trained to avoid such scents.

We took time out at the discovery centre during lunch for Olivia to demonstrate the way Taz works. You can follow the adventures of Taz on her facebook page, more likes will give another conservation group the opportunity to have Taz visit. <https://www.facebook.com/koaladetectiondog>

Images from top: Koala scats; Olivia and Taz; Taz taking a break with Olivia while Alex collects scats; Taz reacted, then avoided this very large prickly Echidna hiding under a log and kept working.

Do you still receive your newsletter by post? Have you considered receiving your newsletter by email instead? It's easy to do, you get a glorious colour version, we conserve paper and save on the more expensive delivery costs. Just email the Secretary to update your preferences at secretary@karawatha.com.

Thank you very much to all the members who have elected to receive their future newsletters by email.



Calendar Event: Sunday Sept 11, 2016 ~ 8 am
Bushcare's Major Day Out - Join us for a Walk
Melaleuca Circuit from Illaweena Street Entrance

For more information send an email to secretary@karawatha.com

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