

Wednesday Walk Report

9/3/2016

Junction House Creek and Wodonga Creek, loop walk from cnr Reuss Rd and the Stockroute

Leader Simon Feillafe, NECMA

Section 1

Right hand side (walking along path towards Albury)

Fenced bank between bike path and Freeway. Some natural regeneration from old Red Gums and some older trees probably planted in Development Corporation days.

Woody weeds could be removed, including false acacia, box elder, privet, plums. Non-native grasses are very thick (kikuyu, phalaris) and would impede further natural regeneration and plantings. Area could be improved with the addition of flowering understorey plants such as grevilleas, blackwoods, bottlebrush – these would need to be sprayed around to give them a chance above the grasses. Nest boxes could be placed in this area.

Left hand side

Several large old red gums in good health, in mown grassland. Excellent hollows – would expect to see bats, possums and parrots nesting here. These trees would benefit from mulching and preventing cars parking under them to reduce compaction. Planting with native grasses and flowering understorey species for nectar, and providing some logs would bring back the insects, lizards and small birds like blue wrens.



Section 2

Plane Tree avenue (walking with Wodonga Creek on your right)

Plane trees pleasant place for people, good shade for parking and picnicking. Not a weedy species, these are unlikely to spread and are nice established trees, probably with historic value.

Between plane trees and creek there are many woody weeds on the banks including willows, plums, false acacia. These could be removed.



Some fairly recent plantings of native species are surviving. Additional planting needed to replace woody weeds removed and support the surviving plantings. These should be done in clumps leaving access to Wodonga creek and creating pleasant viewing/sitting/fishing spots.

Section 3 – Recommended as best place to start restoration

Junction of House Creek and Wodonga Creek, walking back towards the Freeway

To the left there are piles of dumped soil, origin unknown and totally covered with kikuyu and some blackberry. Blackberry needs attention before it spreads. Ask Council re the history and intention with what is presumably waste fill.



To the right is House Creek, with light cover of established trees on bank.

The top of the bank provides a good wide flat space to mow in a track and encourage recreational use. This would be a great spot for walking/sitting/fishing.

Planting trees and understorey to the left would screen the fill piles and a good corridor could be created for wildlife and recreation. A mix of trees and understorey planted in clumps to allow access to the creek would be ideal. Nestboxes could be placed in existing trees.



Section 4

West side of bridge, walking with House Creek and then Wodonga Creek on your right. Bare area with trees only on banks, up to chicane gate and Parklands plantings.

Similar to section 2, with well-established willows predominant along the creek. Some old eucalypts. Previous plantings of non-indigenous natives including varnish and (?) wattles could be enhanced with further indigenous plantings and grasses.



Parklands plantings going well, with obvious cattle grazing not causing too much damage. Dogwood with nests shows value to birds. Severe cattle damage to young Kurrajong trees. Solanum weed species (Jerusalem cherry) needs attention before it spreads.



