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## President's Page

When I went for a walk up Wild Dog Glen and across Urrbrae Ridge early on a March morning I was surprised to see five separate groups of people walking and enjoying the reserve. Perhaps like me they had been brought out by the cooler weather, a welcome break after a hot week and a hot summer. One visitor mentioned seeing an echidna that promptly dug itself in when it was surprised near the Symons Family table.

On a previous walk just before dusk, the yellow evening light had highlighted the trunks of the trees in a most beautiful fashion. Much of the grass has dried and collapsed down over the last couple of months to reveal patches of moss underneath. Surprisingly this still has a touch of green and appears to be just waiting for a break in what will hopefully be a wetter year.

I was surprised by the new growth on some of the eucalypts. Surely that little bit of rain in January couldn't have triggered new shoots? Many of the seedlings planted over the last few years have survived. Perhaps, like the eucalypts, they are tougher than I thought. There have been some casualties too. The committee's approach to re-vegetation is to persevere with a variety of methods so that, despite the odd poor season, we will succeed in the long run.

The reserve has not had any fire problems this season and, as always at this time of year, we keep our fingers crossed. Grant has conducted much University-financed fire prevention work, particularly on the reserve boundaries.

Jennifer's enduring hard work has resulted in another successful Envirofund grant application. This will enable Stephen and

Grant to continue their work on revegetation projects increasing rehabilitation work achieved in the reserve. They will be assisted by Work-for-the-Dole participants and the efforts of the Friends.

In more good news, Penny Paton was successful in attracting another Envirofund grant to continue the Grassy Woodland Network. Funding includes more rehabilitation work proposed for our reserve. Attending a working bee not only gets a job done on the day but also attracts grant funding on a matching basis. In this way your working bee efforts can make a significant difference and I encourage everyone to participate as much as circumstances permit.

Working bee dates are included on enclosed Stephen and

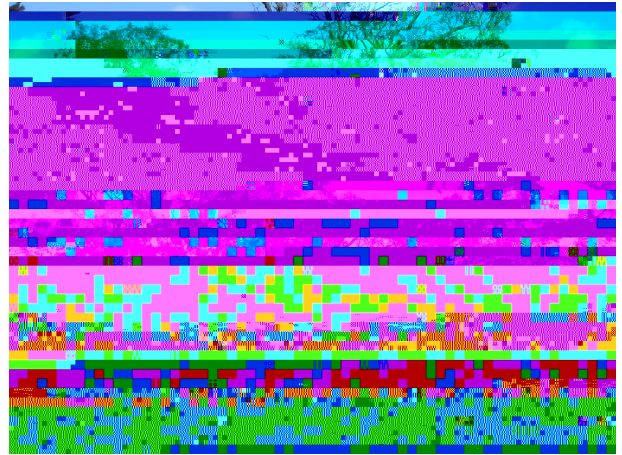
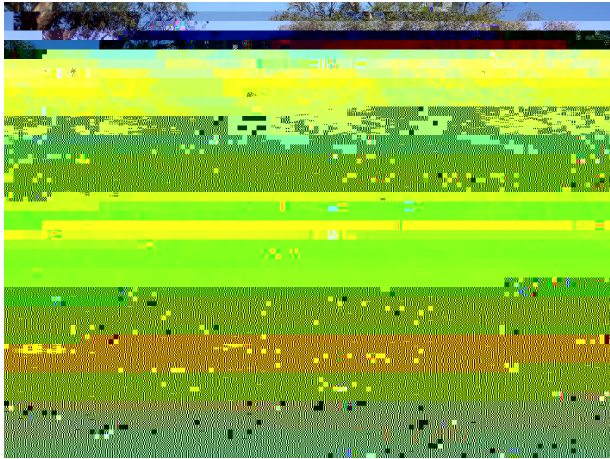
Grant for the bulk of the seed collection. My Acacia seedlings germinated slowly but are now thriving and hopefully will provide some good habitat at a future date.

Thank you also to Peter Bird for editing this newsletter.

We look forward to a successful 2007 and







Photos: Grant Joseph

## Envirofund grant 2007

The University has secured grant of \$36,724 from Natural Heritage Trust Envirofund for revegetation projects in Waite Conservation Reserve.

The purpose of the projects is to consolidate and build on the substantial achievements made to date in conserving and restoring our significant Grey Box Grassy Woodland. The project will establish the modus operandi for all future revegetation programs and begin implementation under the guidance of site supervisor Stephen Wait.

Friends can play an important role by attending working bees and propagating plants at home. Last spring and summer, Stephen and volunteers collected seed from many species on the Reserve and seedlings will be available for planting in 2007.

This year the Friends' committee plans to implement an 'Adopt-a-Patch' program to encourage the involvement of staff and students on the Waite Campus as well as tGa i d i d sbuds DGsuRs 1m kiuiic eabuDG dRbPatatiorindun