

# BRAWL Coordinator Report

## Report on Activities

29<sup>th</sup> July 2024

Erin Moon



## BRAWL Community Coordinator Quarterly Report

This quarter has been extended by a month to align our meetings with the financial reporting months. This quarterly report refers to the last quarter, from March 2024 to July 2024. There were **4** Monday working bees, **1** tree planting day with Costa and **1** executive meeting.

### *Calendar of upcoming Events/Activities*

<b>August</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 5<sup>th</sup> Monday – monthly working bee</li><li>• 25<sup>th</sup> Sunday - ANU students returning for working bee</li><li>• 26<sup>th</sup> Monday – 3 days contractor weed spray &amp; planting maintenance.</li><li>• <b>FINALISE SCRIPT AND FINAL INTERVIEWS FOR PROMO VIDEO</b></li><li>• Still to spend \$200 with AllSigns.</li></ul>
<b>September</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday – tree planting monthly working bee.</li><li>• 2-18<sup>th</sup> October – Hastings fauna survey with volunteer opportunities</li><li>• 2-6<sup>th</sup> – Bird watching surveys – BRAWL volunteers with Tony Hastings</li><li>• 26<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> Oct – bird surveys (1hr), installation of detection cameras, amphibian ID training.</li><li>• 27<sup>th</sup> – BRAWL public fauna survey night – stagwatch, spotlighting &amp; owl playback</li></ul>
<b>October</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• First week Oct – bird survey (1hr)</li><li>• 7<sup>th</sup> Monday – monthly working bee</li><li>• 21<sup>st</sup> Monday – James Schlunke weed survey</li><li>• 21<sup>st</sup> Monday – BRAWL exec meeting</li><li>• <b>31<sup>st</sup> Wednesday – ET Grant finishes</b></li></ul>
<b>November</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 4<sup>th</sup> Monday – monthly working bee</li><li>• 11<sup>th</sup> Monday – Drone survey – BVSC</li><li>• Mid Nov – Council community tree planting day East St – TBC – 1000 plants</li><li>• 20<sup>th</sup> Wednesday - Grow the Future -Bega River site tour - training session.</li><li>• <b>ET GRANT AUDIT</b></li><li>• <b>31<sup>st</sup> November – ET Final Report Due</b></li></ul>
<b>December</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday – monthly working bee</li></ul>

## Mumbulla School Spotlight land purchase

(excerpt from Mumbulla School letter) – future opportunities with BRAWL!!!!



### Mumbulla School Land Purchase

We are thrilled to share some exciting news with you! The Board and College of Mumbulla School for Rudolf Steiner Education are delighted to announce that we have successfully acquired the adjacent block of land from the Spotlight Group. This new addition is approximately 2.6 hectares, with around 100 meters of street frontage on Bega St. You might remember that we also acquired the land for our new Kindergarten from the Spotlight Group back in 2020.

This latest acquisition means that we no longer have to worry about a major developer moving in next door, which may not align with our educational values. Now, with a total of 4.8 hectares (about 12 acres) of land, we have even more opportunities for growth and development.

We're in the process of reviewing potential uses for this land. It will need some remediation to meet school zoning requirements, and we'll be working closely with the Council and environmental experts to determine the best way forward. Our Master Planning Group will be exploring all the possibilities and in due course will present their recommendations for approval to both the College and the Board.

This new block opens up so many exciting possibilities for our school's future. We're particularly excited about the chance to collaborate with local community groups like BRAWL to enhance the embankment along Spenco Lagoon.

Thank you for being a part of this wonderful journey with us. We look forward to sharing more updates and working together to make the most of this incredible opportunity for our Mumbulla School community.

Hallie Fernandez - Business Manager

## Council rehabilitation works along Bega River

### Willow control along Bega River

In June 2024, Council engaged Blackwood River Restoration to undertake willow control work along the stretch between the Brogo/Bega River Junction downstream to the Tarraganda Bridge. This project follows up a control program run by the Local Land Services (former Catchment Management Authority), with the initial control occurring in 2000 and follow up sweeps in 2007 and approximately 2017. The purpose of the original control works was to reduce in-stream blockages, causing bank erosion and flow diversion, primarily into the Anabran channel. The control work was successful and is a great example of a willow-free section of river. Unfortunately, box elder seedlings in the river channel and riverbanks pose a much greater future problem than willows ever did. Box elder is considerably harder to control than willow. The initial quote to treat the box elder in this section of the river is \$30,000. Currently this is cost prohibitive.

### East Street weed control

In June 2024, Council undertook weed control works along the East Street revegetation area targeting broad-leaf and small-leaf Privet (*Ligustrum lucidum* and *L. sinense*), Blackberry (*Rubus fruticosus*), and Box Elder (*Acer negundo*). Target weeds were mulched in-situ leaving a thin mulch layer across the surface.

The reserve has a rich history of rehabilitation and serves as an ongoing collaboration between council, state government, schools, landcare and community groups. The initial revegetation of this former sand quarry site was led by Council in collaboration with (then) Catchment Management Authority in 2002. Over the years, ongoing support and further revegetation projects within the area have been managed by the former On-Trac committee, BRAWL, BVSC, Local Land Services, and Mumbulla school. BRAWL installed nest boxes throughout the reserve to enhance its habitat value, and recent camera monitoring revealed sugar glider families residing there. If left unchecked, these weed species would undo the revegetation efforts previously done and significantly degrade the habitat quality.

Council will run community and schools tree planting days once the weather warms.

## *Trad fungal smut biocontrol*

Recently I was walking in the East Street rehabilitation site, and I happened upon the CSIRO Trad smut trial site. The smut is really evident (see photos). The trad is still the dominant ground cover but not as tall and lush as other sites.

CSIRO confirmed that these observations are consistent with theirs. The fungus has become well established along the Bega River and that it is slowly reducing the vigour of the weed without wiping it out altogether. CSIRO experiments certainly have shown that the competitive strength of the weed is reduced when severely infected by the fungus. Even though the weed may not be completely removed, it should alleviate the pressure on native plants growing nearby within the same root zone.





## Enviro Trust Grant

Year 3 – FINAL YEAR – 3<sup>rd</sup> funding of \$21,505 has been received.

### Tasks for Year 3

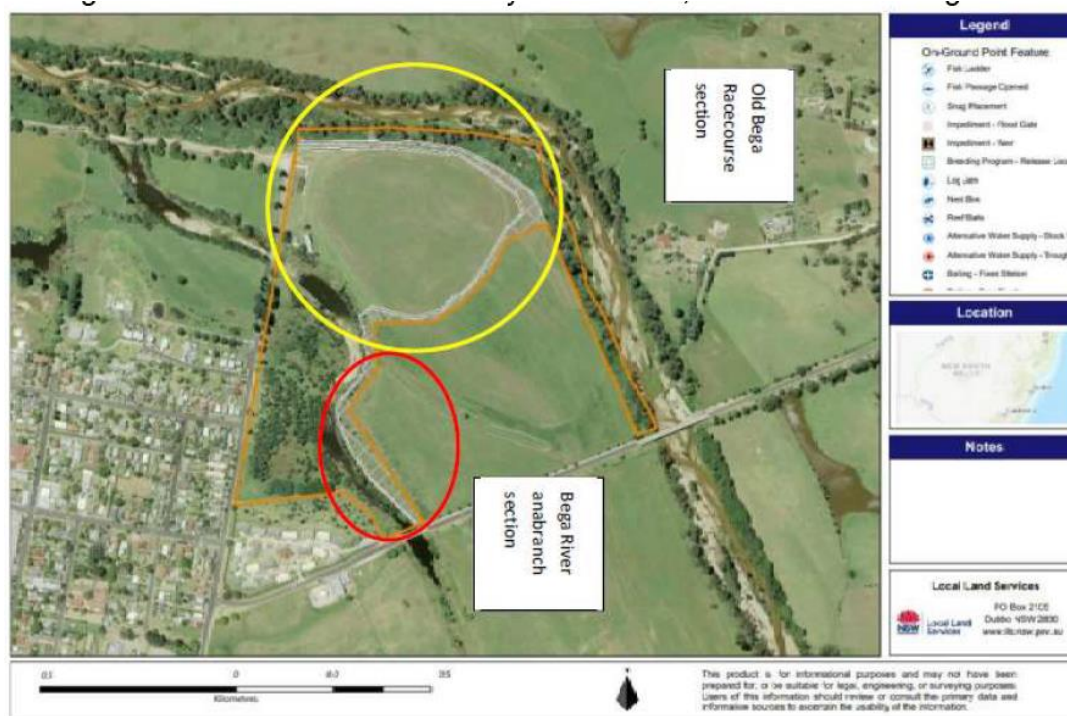
Tasks	Actions	Progress
1. At least 2 working bees in Sites 4b & 5b – planting 200 replacement plants.	Nov 23 – Site 5b – weeding & watering. Feb 24 – Site 5b – weeding. Apr 24 – Site 4b – 100 plants. May 24 – Site 4 & 5b – weeding. July 24 – Site 5 & 5b - weeding	<b>On track</b>  100 more plants required – plants to be ordered.  Working bee requirement completed.
2. At least 7 working bees across Site 3-8 – planting 100 replacement plants.	Dec 23 – Site 2 – 200 grant funded plants + 140 paddy donated plants. Mar 24 – Site 2 – weeding. June 24 – Site 8 – weeding.	<b>On track</b>  4 more working bees required.  This will not be met as at least one more planting working bee will be required at Sites 4-5 within remaining period. Justification - new areas required additional attention due to favourable weather enhancing weed growth.
3. 1 x erosion & ladder fuel control - working bee along Anabranche – with BEND	BVSC & BEND erosion & ladder control works undertaken as part of BVSC remediation of inappropriate contractor clearing.	<b>Completed</b> – to get photos from Chris.
4. Spring-time monitoring of nest boxes	To occur in Sept/Oct	<b>Outstanding</b>
5. Undertake drone monitoring	To occur in Nov	<b>Outstanding</b>
6. End of project – Flora survey and weed mapping– exec requested native species mapping incorporated into this report.	Axis Ecological has agreed to do the work and has indicated he will send in a quote soon.	<b>Outstanding</b>
7. Fauna survey – consultant (follow-up to EnviroKey 2016 report).	Tony Hastings has provided a generous quote – includes multiple opportunities for volunteer involvement.  Exec to approve quote.	<b>Outstanding</b>

8. Complete promo video – script to be written.	Script to be written. Final interviews to be had. Promo video to be edited.	Outstanding
9. Complete website – content to be added.	Planning completed. Content half completed.	Outstanding

### ***LLS Racecourse funding:***

LLS awarded BRAWL a \$6,000 grant in 2022 for weed control works along the Racecourse and Anabranck Track and East Street. There is **\$2,654.40** remaining of this grant. Isacc will conduct another sweep of the Racecourse in Spring 2024. The remaining funds should be spent on another sweep in Spring 2025.

The original LLS funding is for the red and yellow polygons.



### **Bega River Anabranck Restoration Project - Platypus Corner**

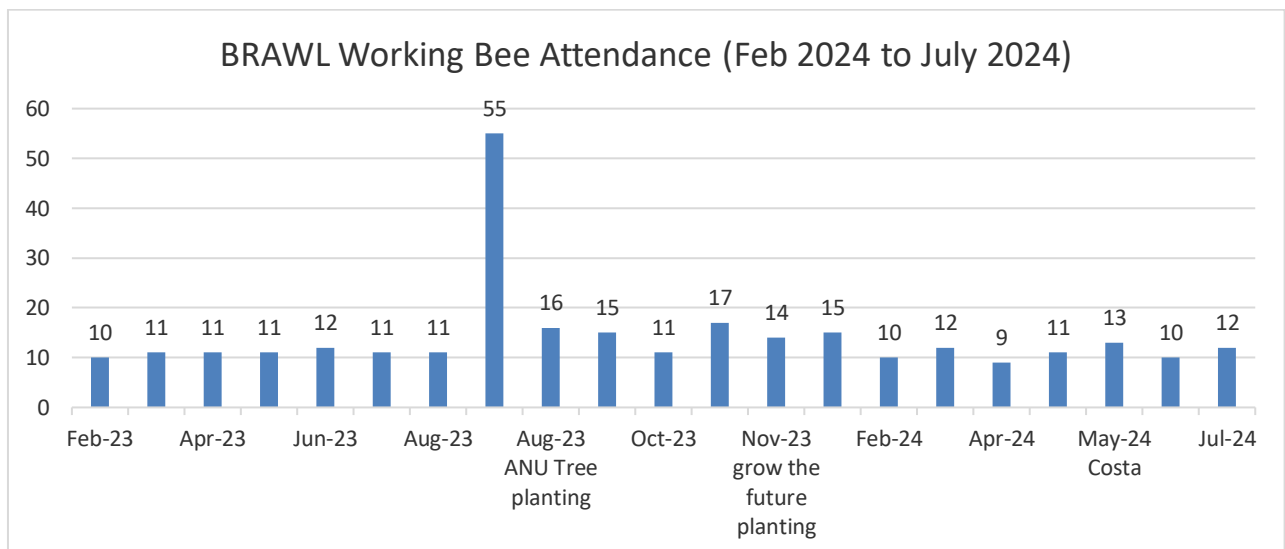
This project was completed in June 2024, and the final report has been submitted to Council. The financials are yet to be acquitted. In the absence of receipts, Council requires evidence of bank transactions. BRAWLs bookkeeper will provide this. Dave has forwarded a copy of this final report to BRAWL and has indicated that he will submit a more detailed report to BRAWL at a later date.

## BRAWL Activities in a snapshot

Activity	Last Qtr	This Qrt
Working B hours	87 (up)	114 (up)
School Planting hours	58	0
Additional Volunteer hours	117.5 (up)	83.5 (down)
In-kind hours	20	0
In-kind amount		\$280 (donated plants)
Training	110	0
Member email list	210 (up)	178 (list rationalised – but 18 new emails in quarter)
Members active in last quarter	18 (up)	20 (up)
Working B sites	6 (RC), 4, 8, 5b	2, 5b, 2
Tree plantings	480	270
Media items	1	0

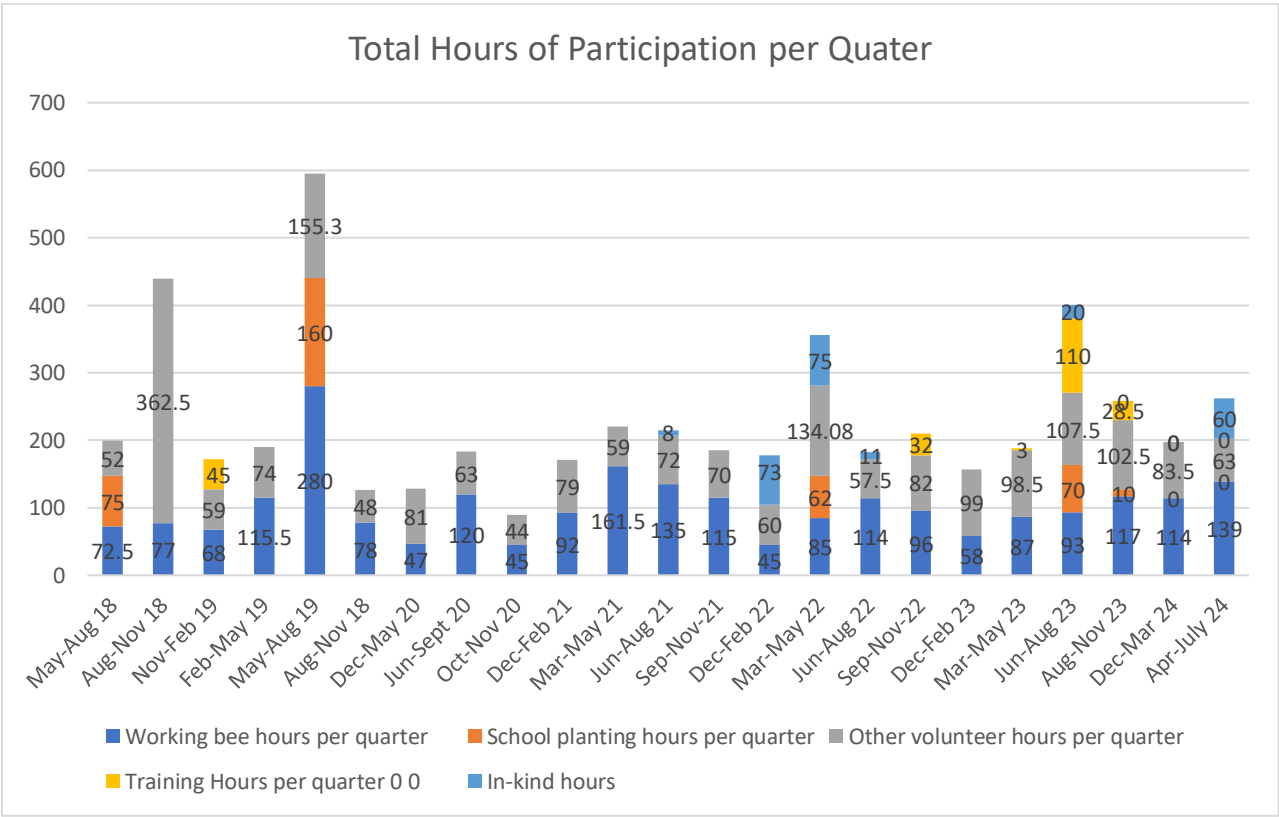
## Participation Summary

Numbers at working bees are consistent with past trends, ranging from 10 to 15 members. In the last quarter, 20 different members have attended working bees.



Volunteer hours during quarter

In this time there was a total of 139 volunteer hours at working bees, 63 hours of additional volunteer participation, 0 school hours, 0 hours training and 60 in-kind hours.



Volunteer Hours Log

NOTE: Standard additional hours have been added for Executive meetings (including meeting attendance, secretarial, chairperson & treasurer tasks) and tool provision at working bees). An estimate of additional hours to these are also provided in Table 1.

**Table 1: Volunteer Hours including working bees and additional hours**

			WB HRS	SCHOOL TP	ADD VOL HRS	TRAINING HRS	IN- KIND
<b>Apr-24</b>	April Working bee (no chris tool time)	7 members + contractors	21				
<b>May-24</b>	May Working Bee + 2hr Chris tools	9 members + contractors	29				
<b>May-24</b>	Tree planting with Costa + 1hr Chris tools	12 volunteers + Erin	25				
<b>May-24</b>	Website planning meeting + planning	Regi and Erin	3		3		
<b>May-24</b>	Grow the future student training session	Erin, Chris and Ali + 5 GtF student s			6		
<b>Apr to Jun-24</b>	Megan - weeding (Noogoora burr, datura, Nicandra, farmers friend, stinking roger and privet) - Megan's 3 sites and along Bob's path. Planted 55 lomandras & unearthed plants following May floods.	Megan			38		
<b>Jun-24</b>	June working bee + Chris tools		29				
<b>Jul-24</b>	July Working Bee + 2hr Chris tools. 100 donated plants (Paddy)	10 members + contractors	32				
<b>Apr-July 2024</b>	Additional weed control & path creation (Bob Buck 2hrs*4wks)	1 member (Bob)			8		
	BEND members erosion control working bee				8		
<b>Jun-24</b>	Council - Privet, Box Elder and Blackberry mulching East Street						30
<b>Jun-24</b>	Council-Willow Control in River channel between Brogo confluence & Tarraganda Bridge.						30
	<b>July 2024 quarterly totals</b>		<b>139</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>60</b>

## Contractor hours

No additional contractor hours to those worked at working bees







## Media









Last retrieved 28/7/2024 - Facebook

### Page overview

[Create a post](#) Last 28 days

#### Discovery

 Post reach	37
 Post engagement	2
 New Page likes	6
 New Page Followers	6

	Due to forecasted heavy rains on Saturday, sadly this event with Costa will be cancelled. :( But the other Circularity events with Costa on Saturday 11th May at the Bega Civic Centre are going ahead. Spaces are still available. 3-5pm - Uni of Wollongong's Producers Workshop. FREE. <a href="https://www.trybooking.com/events/landing/1212513">https://www.trybooking.com/events/landing/1212513</a> 5-8pm - Costa Talks...	Post reach 167	Engagement 4
	Costa Georgiadis will be with BRAWL as he talks Circularity in Bega - a day of events: demonstrations, discussions, tours on all things Circularity - Saturday 11th May: 🌱🌿🍄 9-11am - Grow the Future open farm - food, market stalls, demonstrations - join BRAWL and Brighter Futures Landscaping for tree planting and info stall. FREE no bookings...	Post reach 338	Engagement 15
	🌱🌿🍄 Calling BRAWL volunteers - do you have an hour or two to help us spruik BRAWL's amazing work to all potential new volunteers at this expo? 🌱🌿🍄 Thanks BVSC for this great opportunity to showcase our work and hopefully recruit some more volunteers!! 🌱🌿🍄 #begavalleyshire #frrr Bega Valley Shire Council Far South Coast...	Post reach 49	Engagement 1
	🌱🌿 Community Tree Planting this Sunday! 🌱🌿 Enjoy time in nature with like-minded community members at the beautiful Bega River and help restore this degraded system. Every moment you can spare to care for the land helps. Old Bega Racecourse, Sunday 20th August, 10-2pm, bring garden gloves, water and your lunch.	Post reach 249	Engagement 22
	🌱🌿🍄 What a great start to Science Week! 🌱🌿🍄 55 participants walked along the beautiful Bega River pathway, recording insects and plants in the iNaturalist app, enjoying the sunshine and amazing frittatas and cake from Wild Rye! Yum! Make sure you get along to the other amazing Science Week activities: <a href="https://atlasoflife.org.au/news-...">https://atlasoflife.org.au/news-...</a>	Post reach 337	Engagement 129
	Book your spot for a plant ID and wildlife walk with the plant world rock star, Jackie Miles, at the Bega River this Sunday from 11am! 🌱🌿🍄	Post reach 56	Engagement 5
	Bega River Wildlife Walk - this Science week - with Botanist Jackie Miles & iNaturalist support - Sun 13th Aug 11-1.30pm - FREE! 🌱🌿🍄 Bega District News ABC South East NSW SPCA - South East Producers Bournda Environmental Education Centre Far South Coast Landcare Association South East Local Land Services Bega Valley Shire Council Atlas o...	Post reach 525	Engagement 72
	A satisfying day for BRAWL volunteers giving the garden at the entry to the Old Bega Racecourse a refresh! When we started the day, the garden was overgrown, full of dead shrubs and weeds - namely turkey rhubarb, privet and blackberry. We pulled up almost 100 turkey rhubarb tubers from under the ground! The garden has been revitalised wit...	Post reach 344	Engagement 137

## Sites Attended (Working bees and Contractor days)

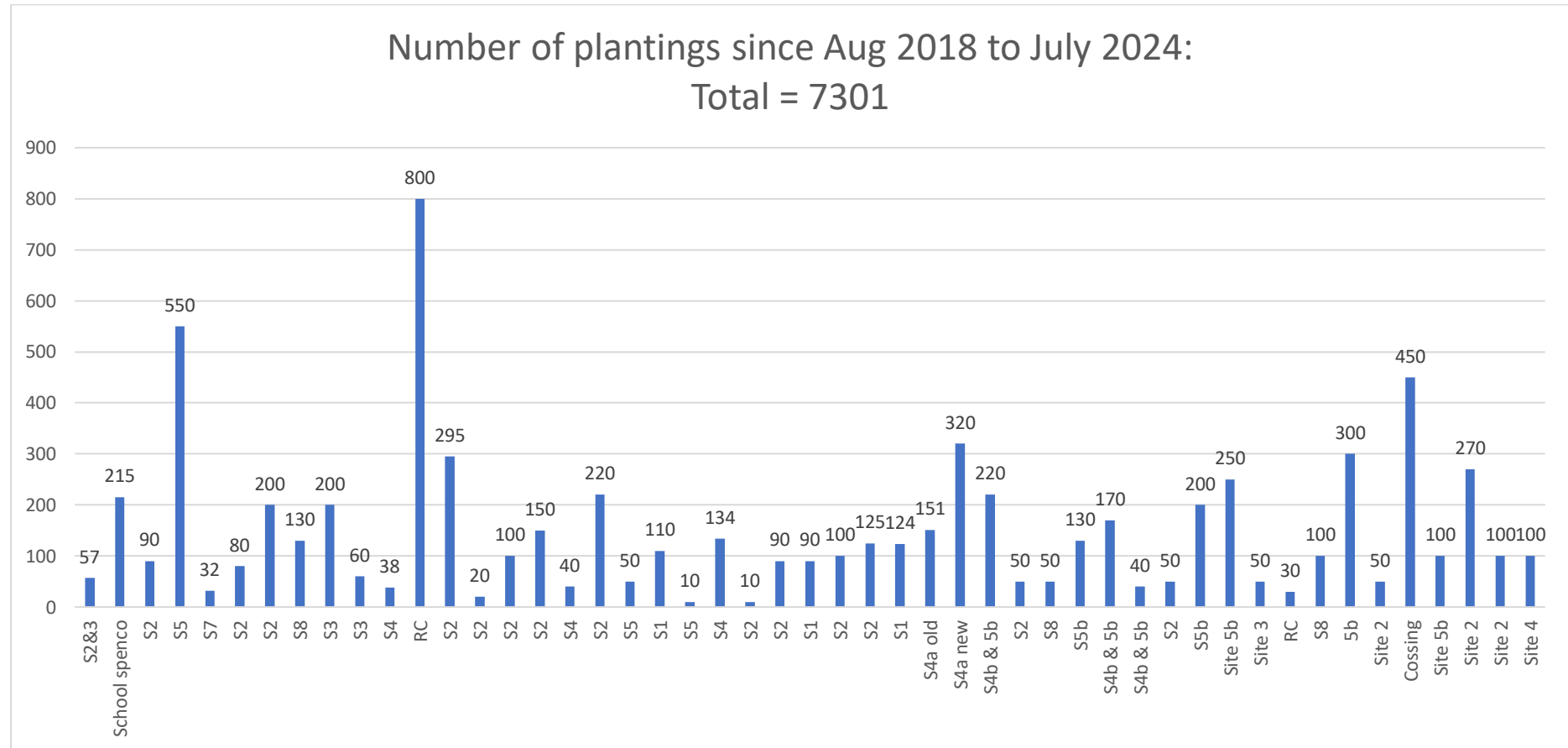
Month	1	2	3	4a	4b	5a	5b	7	8	
Feb 24										
Mar 24										
Apr 24										
May 24										
Jun 24										
July 24										RC entry garden

## Working Bees Summary for last Quarter

Date	Site	Activity	No. Plantings	Follow-up Comments
Apr 2024	Site 4	Tree planting & spraying around plantings	100	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Jens followed up with spraying around base of plantings and then moved onto spraying privet towards site 4.</li> <li>David Hall and Regi sprayed around plantings along lower bank of site 4 towards the eastern end of site 5b.</li> <li>Requires regular inspection to ensure plantings are ok.</li> </ul>
May 2024	Site 5a	Privet cut and paste, madeira vine spray, slash tall weeds, tend plantings.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Paddy and Premjoyti continued spraying around plantings, privet and turkey rhubarb towards site 4.</li> <li>David Hall and Regi sprayed around plantings towards eastern edge of site 5.</li> <li>Need to return to lower slopes of Sites 4b and 5b (esp site 5b).</li> <li>LOTS of privet on lower banks of site 5b.</li> </ul>
June 2024	Site 8	Poplar & Privet cut and paste, stockpiling oyster guards in privet cubby, weed (privet, thistle, turkey) control & planting maintenance.	0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Jens to return to site and spray blackberry in Site 7 during the school holidays.</li> <li>Erin to ask Jason if he would like Jens to get the blackberry on the school fence?</li> <li>Site needs brushcut and replanting – especially along pathway.</li> <li>Follow-up treatment of poplars once dormancy ends.</li> </ul>
July 2024	Site 5b & RC	Privet, Turkey, Madeira, cape ivy control & planting maintenance. Planting 100 donated plants. TLC of RC entry garden.	100	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Spray maintenance around plantings looking good. New plants well distributed throughout Site 5 &amp; 5b.</li> <li>Summer annuals have died back revealing privet seedlings. Contacted Issac for a day's contracting to target privet.</li> <li>Booked Issac in for 3 days target weed spraying and spray around seedlings in late Aug.</li> </ul>

One-pages updated.

## Planting Record



# Planting Summary

		Yr 2 - 2023												
		Site 4b	Site 2	Site 5b	Site 5b	Site 3-erosioRC	Spenco 8	Site 5b ANU	Site 4 erosio	River crossin	Site 5a - Grow	Site 2	Totals	
Scientific Name	Common Name	Nov-22	Dec-23	6/02/2023	25/02/2023	23/04/2023	5/06/2023	7/08/2023	26/08/2023	4/09/2023	9/10/2023	8/11/2023	4/12/2023	
Trees														
Acacia implexa	hickory												5	5
Acacia mearnsii	black wattle													0
Acacia melanoxylon	blackwood													0
Acmena smithii	lillypilly												15	15
Angophora floribunda	rough-barked apple													0
Brachychiton popularneus	Kurrajong													0
Casuarina cunninghamiana	river sheoak												15	105
Eucalyptus baueriana	blue box								90			10	10	20
Eucalyptus elata	river peppermint											5	10	15
Eucalyptus ovata	swamp gum													0
Eucalyptus tereticornis	forest red gum													0
Eucalyptus viminalis	ribbon or manna gum											10	10	20
Tristaniopsis laurina	water gum												10	10
Shrubs														0
Acacia elongata	swamp wattle								10			10	80	100
Acacia floribunda	white sallee wattle								5			10	12	27
Callistemon subulatus	river bottlebrush								10				10	20
Cassinia longifolia	dogwood											10	10	20
Cassinia trinerva														0
Dodonaea viscosa ssp. angustifolia	hop bush												10	10
Hakea microcarpa	small-fruited hakea								10					10
Indigofera australis	Austral indigo													0
Lassinia longifolia														0
Leptospermum brevipes														0
Leptospermum emarginatum	twin-flower teatree								10			5		15
Leptospermum lanigerum	woolly teatree								15				10	25
Leptospermum obovatum	river teatree								20			8	8	36
Lomatia myricoides	river lomatia								10				10	20
Melaleuca ericifolia	swamp paperbark								10					10
Melaleuca parvistaminea												8		8
Melicytus dentatus [Hymenanthera dentate]	tree violet												10	10
Prostanthera lasianthos	mint bush								10				10	20
Herbs														0
Cymbopogon refractus	barbed wire grass													0
‡ Lomandra longifolia	spiny mat-rush								100			25	25	150
Microlaena stipoides	weeping grass													0
Poa labillardierei	silver or poa tussock													0
Totals		40	50	200	250	50	30	100	300	50	450	101	270	3512

**Erin Moon**  
**28/7/2024**