

## Aunty Aud's Tree Planting

Last Sunday, the 25<sup>th</sup> October, we were blessed with beautiful blue skies and community spirit to accompany us in the planting of 100 trees to commemorate 100 years of life for Aunty Aud.



Annette Stolz planting the first Norfolk Pine

Mrs. Audrey Scott, nee Robinson, was the youngest of eight children to Cobby and Jemima Robinson. She grew up not far from what is now 100 Acre Reserve so it seemed fitting to have a stand of future forest there planted in her name. She also made up a particularly special trio of women to have reached the 100 year milestone, the other two being her Mother Aunt Jemima, who's trees line Taylors Road from Watermill Dam down past the Cenotaph, and her Sister Aunty Girlie, who's trees can be found overlooking beautiful Crystal Pool.

The afternoon began with a welcome speech from Reverend David Fell. He recited Audrey's favourite, psalm 121, and recounted a few of his own personal memories of Aunty Aud.

The Administrator, Mr. Eric Hutchinson spoke afterwards to give a brief history of the family and of his first time meeting Audrey, at her 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday party. This was followed by a speech from Mr. Jim Castles, environmental consultant to NIRC to explain the importance of this planting and why a diverse range of natives was being planted instead of all Norfolk Pines.

The family was invited to choose their trees first, with Annette Stolz, Audrey's daughter, planting the first Pine. Annette then spoke to the crowd, recalling her mother as being an ordinary person from an ordinary family but she believes that ordinary people are the most important people in the world. She spoke of them having their differences, but that even in her 90's Audrey would draw people towards her with her natural charisma, cheek, and presence.

Following the family, the community and representatives from various community groups were invited to plant their trees. As the slope was quite steep, the children and more able-bodied individuals went sliding down the hill to the harder-to-reach trees. Each tree had already been laid out, with a hole dug, a stake and some water crystals to help them through the summer. Each stake was numbered, accompanied by a piece of card to record the names of those who planted each tree. It was quite a sight actually, watching everybody stand guard over their tree as they called out for the closest pen, which promptly came hurtling through the air. There were some impressive, and not so impressive, catches to be seen.

Amidst lots of laughter, all of the trees were put in the ground in record time. Waiting at the top of the hill, in the beautiful sunny clearing was the Rotary tent serving up tea, coffee, cake and cold juice. Everybody who joined in, of which there would have been just over 100 people, enjoyed a much deserved afternoon tea after their hike back up to flat ground.



Looking down the slope which is now planted out

Although 100 Norfolk Pines, being Audrey's favourite, was the initial request it was decided that a more diverse range of natives would be more beneficial to the ecosystem. What was planted closely reflects the surrounding forest, with a few species added that don't occur in the reserve anymore but will hopefully flourish and re-establish themselves where they once would have been.

The afternoon wouldn't have been possible without the help and input of so many different people. A special thanks to: NIRC for their funding of the event; to National Parks, in particular Mark Scott for the propagation and raising of such healthy young trees; to Rotary for putting on our lovely afternoon tea, and at such late notice; to Booda, Bear, Kim and Speed for saving the day with a slasher and post-hole borer; to Reverend Fell, The Administrator and Mr. Castles for their words that afternoon; to Annette for her help and persistence towards making the day come to fruition; and of course to all of the community and service representatives for coming together to plant a tree and make such a joyous occasion.

In Norfolk's history, there have only been 7 people to have reached the age of 100, all of which were women. It has always been a special tradition that upon reaching that milestone, a letter from the Queen is received and 100 trees are planted to commemorate the occasion. It's a beautifully unique way to honour the life, love and wisdom of awas



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salan and to have them live on into future generations. I hope to see many more yet to come.

**LILLI-UNNA KING**

ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECT OFFICER

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