

The Orchard Project at Tuggeranong

Both Geoff Robertson and Michael Bedingfield ('Friends of Grasslands' members) gave us some very helpful advice about plantings in the orchard, including sowing of native seed on selected cleared sites and a variety of understorey plants that would help improve the biodiversity of the area.

Some major clearing of dead trees and regrowth in the orchard was to take place, with a few scattered historic orchard trees and oaks left in situ. Guise's Creek Fire Brigade gave us valuable help in burning off fallen pine trees and lots of other fallen timber that had been collected into a large pile.

The burn off provided MOTH with a clean site to begin understorey planting. A selection of traditional fruit and nut trees including two seedling English oaks were reintroduced.

The spring rains of 2010 and heavy falls in early 2011 have seen all the plantings in the orchard thrive along with the abundant growth of weeds. Work to restore the orchard is continuing in 2011.