

The story behind the photo: 'Treetracks'

Every picture tells a story says David Anthony. But he's provided some words anyway ...

On a recent trip to Berlin my friends decided to take me on an outing to a mystery location "Sudgelände" on the southern border of inner city Berlin in the Schöneberg-Tempelhof district. All I was told was that it was an old railway yard. It was in fact a remnant of a larger railway freight yard ("Rangierbahnhof bei Tempelhof" built between 1880 and 1890(see photo). After freight train services were discontinued in 1952 the majority of the site was largely abandoned and a process of natural regeneration started with the development of a richly structured mosaic of dry grasslands. Sixty years after the trains stopped the 18 hectare site now contains a 60 year old regenerating woodland and associated grasslands. The site is now a unique island of biodiversity which has grown out of the abandoned yards completely surrounded by high density urban development.

How this island was able to develop and survive is closely entwined with Berlin's unique history especially the peculiar political situation in Berlin between 1945 and unification in 1989. After the war the rights to all Berlin railway freight yards had been given by the Allies to East Germany who for political reasons (see Berlin Airlift) reduced freight train services to West Berlin to a minimum. This allowed the process of natural regeneration to begin on many old rail yards. For a long time the development of this urban wilderness took place almost unnoticed due to the inaccessibility of the site. At the beginning of the 1980s, plans

emerged to completely clear the site to make way for a new freight train station. This led to strong protests and the formation of a group to preserve the Sudgelände as a nature area. However, the reunification of Berlin after the wall came down and it once again becoming the capital of a united Germany led to increasing competition for available land resources within the city. The nature park was also able to survive this risk to its survival through the determination of its supporters and some innovative city planning which saw its development as a park as a compensatory (offset) measure for the development of new rail yards in the inner city area.

In 2000 the area was legally set aside as the Schöneberger- Sudgelände landscape and nature conservation area and opened to the public. Today the park is a mixture of woodland, industrial relics and modern art installations. My friends and I had an amazing walk

through the park and pondered the rich cultural, historical and natural significance of this island within the sea of urbanized Berlin.



10 years on the airwaves for 2BRW 94.5 FM

Jill McLeod broadcasts the news

BRAIDWOOD COMMUNITY RADIO 2BRW 94.5 FM will celebrate its 10th birthday on January 26, 2013. The station will once again present its special Australia Day programming as it has since the first broadcast went to air. During the following ten eventful years presenters have come and gone and there have been program changes along the way but the station has continued to uphold its first class standard, ensuring pleasurable listening for members of our community and surrounding district.

Some of the changes have been the unexpected move back to the UK of our very first super technician and presenter Paul Brodie, who assisted in setting up the fledgling station, and the introduction of three young presenters aged sixteen and under to satisfy the musical tastes of their contemporaries in our community. The number of interviews, direct to air, by phone and recorded, have increased dramatically and have included conversations with top ranking performers such as Judy Stone, Neil Murray, Sara Storer, Lee Kernaghan, Catherine Britt, Tania Kernaghan and Warren H Williams.

Our regular presenters Gavin Pillidge, Jill McLeod, Dennis Dempsey, Rob Davidson and Julie Reynolds (who has recently rejoined the station) as well as our three young people, entertain our listeners with their regular music and magazine format programs.

We now have a stable of local interview spot personalities who we can listen to on a regular basis. Weatherman Roger Hosking, Helen Small from the Braidwood Garden Club, Vlad Bohdan from the Rural Fire Service, Mary Mathias from Braidwood Community Bank and Rod McClure, Principal of Braidwood Central School enjoy relaxed conversations at various times through the weeks and months.

For the latest programming, the latest weather information, a link to the *Braidwood Times*, and to find out 'What's New', check out our website www.braidwoodradio.com.au. The management and presenters look forward to another fabulous decade of broadcasting and, as always, issue the invitation to join them any time. You can email us at rothshair@bigpond.net.au

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