**Present:** Astrid Wright (*in the chair*), Jim Anderson, Nichole Gill (CoH), Sally Wayte, Jeff Dunn, Robyn Mounster, Greg Summers, Rod Arnold, David Smith, Craig Macaulay, Vicky Martin and Bruce Champion (*Minutes secretary)*.

**Apology:** None

1. **Convenor’s Report:** Astrid’s report was presented, see pages 3 and 4.
2. **FoKL Officers**:The following agreed to hold positions for 2019

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Office** | **2020** |
| Convenor | Astrid Wright (happy to do again provided the support from the core members is maintained) |
| Equipment Officers | Robyn Mounster storage and Jim Anderson maintenance |
| Qualified in Senior First Aid*\**  | Some retrainings will be provided by COH to people who need it. *(To be confirmed)*Greg Summers and Rod Arnold possibly due, Bruce Champion opted out of Leadership role |
| Flora Officer | Bruce Champion |
| Fauna Officer | David Obendorf |
| Web Master | Rex Bunn |

**ISSUES ARISING FROM THE CONVENOR’S REPORT.**

The report was accepted as presented with an amendment to the number of visitors to the reserve from 18,000 to 118,000, see pages 4 and 5.

1. **Weed Control**

The Reserve is in pretty good condition and most effort went into the old growth gorse, bone seed and Euryops in KR4, 7, 8, 13 and 14 along Weerona Trail and into Providence Gully.

The family members that own 193 Forest Road, the only private property along the extension of Forest Road, who allowed us to clear the woody weed infestation in early 2017 contacted Bruce again to advise renewal of their public liability insurance policy. This will enable us to do more work in this property as there has been considerable regrowth of poorly treated and seedling gorse. More work will also be required in the area west of 193, KR22.

A self-employed contractor did some weed control along the Salvator Rosa Glen area that has been added to our Reserve, KT28+. We also employed her in April for spraying work in KR14 below the Bandicoot corridor but this has not been very successful. However spraying she did on the regrowth of burnt gorse in KR7 above the Weerona Trail in October appears to have been very successful. We may use her again in 2020.

Another weed was noticed in Salvator Rosa Glen: Cyperus eragrostis – umbrella sedge/nut grass and treatment has been commenced.

1. **Funds**

The funds held for FoKL by CoH are still very healthy at $12,346.02, an increase of $500.00 from 2018. The surplus for the year was $161.35. Some funds will be required for the replacement of the Glover Track signs.

**OTHER BUSINESS**

1. **Activity Calendar**

FoKL’s Activity Calendar 2020 Rev. 0 was issued to Members and discussed.

Sally and Jeff know Professor David Bowman who has been vocal about the bushfire crisis. They were requested to contact him to ask him to do a 3rd Sunday afternoon walkabout in the Reserve with Members discussing the state of the reserve wrt a bushfire. If Sundays are not suitable then a 1st or 3rd Thursday morning to suit him. Sunday 16th February has been pencilled into the calendar but can easily be swapped to another date.

The small area of big gorse along the western side of the Southern Trail past the Wellington Park link Trail boom gate along to the Lenah Valley access Trail is to be treated by Members walking in from the Mt Stuart carpark.

Greg was doubtful that there are enough woody weeds up the Glover Track to justify an activity session. He will review in September.

FoKL’s Activity Calendar 2020 Rev.0 is included in these minutes, pages 5 and 6, and the management areas referred to in the Program are shown on the draft Knocklofty Reserve map on page 7.

1. **Glover Track Signage**

Bruce and Sjaan Field (CoH) approved the Glover Track signs and they are to be made by Eye Spy and installed by CoH personnel in the coming months.

**3. Salvator Rosa Glen**

Covered in Item 1 Weed Control

**4. Weerona Trail Area**

The outside Company that worked with us for forget-me-not and thistle removal are interested in coming to help on three more occasions but Astrid doesn’t believe we have enough suitable work for them for three sessions. She will reconsider later in the year.

**5. Old house site Ext Forest Road asbestos warning sign/clean-up**

There many small pieces of what look like broken asbestos sheet on the ground around the old house foundation along the extension of Forest Road. It was suggested a warning sign be installed and Nicole was asked to enquire about a sign and possible removal of the asbestos and report back.

**6. Old house foundations mural?**

The old house foundations have been adorned with graffiti and it was suggested that CoH Graffiti Removal personnel be asked if they could arrange for a mural to be painted it inhibit rampant graffiti work. Nicole was asked to enquire and report back.

**7. Bumble bee nest action?**

A Member checking the top of 193 Forest Road, observed a bumble bee activity between some rock, and having read that bumble bees often make nests in the ground. Again, Nicole was asked if she could find out if the CoH or a Government Department have an action plan for bumble bee eradication. Bruce has since read that spraying a mixture of 1:1 vinegar and water at night can be used to control them. As he reported on the night, they can sting multiple times, so beware!

**8. Gorse in front garden last house lhs Fielding Drive**

There are several large old gorse bushes in the front garden 46 Fielding Drive and Members asked if we could again approach the owners to offer to remove them. Nichole suggested writing to the CoH Bushland manager to determine whether an abatement notice could be issued to them to remove the gorse as it is adjacent to the Reserve where all gorse has been removed. It was also reported that the owner of 25 Fielding Drive had been observed dumping garden waste and other material onto the Reserve through his rear gate.

**9. Plant grasses in August in area sprayed along Weerona Trail?**

Astrid is keen to try to plant grasses in the area of old burnt gorse where the regrowth spraying has been very successful. Nicole suggested a letter be written to the CoH Manager of Bushland Reserves requesting permission and suggesting a time table and species and quantity of plants. Bruce and Astrid to work in this asap.

The meeting closed at about 8.30pm and was followed by another splendid supper provided by Jenny and Greg. This was greatly enjoyed by all.

Thank you Jenny and Greg.

 January 2020

**KNOCKLOFTY RESERVE**

**Annual Report for the year 2019**

The reserve is very dry; all the frog ponds are empty except for the Reflection Pond. With little grass around, the bushes and even the trees are browsed; e.g. with the Exocarpos cupressiformis, native cherries, it is quite obvious how far the wallabies can reach, as every leaf is eaten at that height.

The hazard reduction burns on the southern side of Knocklofty were carried out in early May, though not in the area cleared by the Green Army, and not 193 Forest Rd. One gully, the habitat of the Ammonite Snail, was also left alone.

The tracks damaged by the flood in May last year were repaired: the Corby Av. track, Glover track Mt. Stuart track and Summit track.

The fire trail from the end of Weerona Ave to the Bandicoot Corridor (formerly called the Lake Fenton pipeline trail) was upgraded. The bank on the uphill side was sprayed with liquid fibre mulch containing seeds of sterile rye grass and Poas. This should help prevent erosion. The excellent condition of the trail has encouraged many people to use it, and a ‘people counter’ has been installed. We call it the Weerona Trail.

Other counters in the reserve shows a combined tally of over 118,000 visits to the reserve this year.

We were allowed to take down the old fence from around the new addition at the top of Summerhill Rd. This involved jacking up between 160 – 170 five feet star pickets, unhitching two strands of rusty barbed wire and one smooth wire, rolling the wires into manageable portions and then carrying everything down or up to the Weerona Trail collection point. In all it took us about 130 hrs.

**WEED CONTROL**

As most of the reserve is in a pretty good condition with regard to introduced weeds, we concentrated on the new area with 14 activities. It involved cut & past gorse, broom, bone seed and hawthorn, cut & paste or hand-pull Euryops and thistles, and hand-pull forget-me-nots. The plants and cuttings were left on ground to decompose. We had two areas of re-growth gorse sprayed with glyphosate by contractor, one poorly burnt site above the Weerona Trail, was done in October, this worked very well. The area sprayed in April near the Bandicoot Corridor may need a bit of a follow-up. In Salvator Rosa Glen the forget-me-nots, hemlock and thistles are getting under control, but another weed was noticed: Cyperus eragrostis – umbrella sedge/nut grass. Seed heads were cut, bagged and removed and cut & paste was started on the stems at ground level, however if this doesn’t control it, we will have to dig it up.

**TASNETWORKS**

The half yearly checks for woody growth in the wayleave under the power lines were done. Cutting & pasting where necessary. Any trees needing pruning with power tools was reported to TasNetworks. We had less people than usually on ground, so it was a light sweep through.

**MISCELLANEUS ITEMS**

In July, with permission from COH, the film company that made the film serial ‘The Gloaming’ used part of the Forest Rd. car park as the site for a night scene. This scene included artificial mist, many standing torches and a huge bon fire. The whole thing took a week, and the amount of people, equipment and material was amazing. It is commendable how well they cleaned up the area after they finished. Only a minimal impact was noticed.

Laura Jakob, a student from UTAS, is doing a study on wild life in the new area. Motion cameras, with baits in front, were used. The result will be interesting.

The replacement of the Glover track signage has been worked out thanks to Bruce and COH staff. It will be put up in 2020.

**FINANCES**

We earned less from TasNetwork this year, but still covered our expenses.

* $ 12,346.02 held by COH $ 61.14 in CBA account $ 224.50 in petty cash Total funds $ 12,631,66
* Income $ 1500 from TasNetworks for wayleave work $ 120 Grant from Landcare Tasmania Total income $1620
* Expenditure $ 1071.05 on contract spraying $ 387.60 on web charges, tools, subscriptions, administration and refreshment.
* Surplus $161.35

**VOLUNTEERS**

We worked a total of 822 hours ‘on ground’ and some 200 hours in meetings, preparation of notices, sign reviews, administration etc. Rodney Arnold was awarded the COH Golden Secateurs Award for 2019. Employees from AQUATIC Information helped remove forget-me-nots from Providence Valley Rivulet gully. Jim Anderson and I represented FoKL at COH ‘Volunteer Recognition’ evening. Bruce does all our sign, maps, notices and minutes.

Friends of Knocklofty Reserve are doing so well because so many are willing to help.

I would like to say a big THANK YOU to all.

Astrid D. Wright. Convenor. Friends of Knocklofty Reserve.

Friends of Knocklofty Reserve.

And all of us Friends of Knocklofty Bushcare Group say:

**“*Thank YOU, Astrid, for all the work you do and your excellent coordinating!*”**

|  |
| --- |
| **FoKL Activity Calendar for 2020. Revision 0****Thursdays [9 to 11.30 am], Sundays [2-4.30 pm].** Please note this is only a guide, activities may change to suit Reserve requirements. |
| Thursday 6th February | Meet at Forest Rd carpark for regrowth gorse weeding along Forest Rd. extension well beyond the boom gate in 193 Forest Road, KR23.  |
| Sunday 16th February | Meet at Forest Rd carpark for bushfire walk through the Reserve with Professor Bowman if he is available |
| Thursday 20th February | Meet at Forest Rd carpark for regrowth gorse weeding along Forest Rd. extension well beyond the boom gate in 193 Forest Road, KR23.  |
| Thursday 5th March | Meet at end of Weerona Avenue for burnt gorse tidying up above the Weerona Trail from the Mt Stuart Track, KR7. |
| Sunday 15th March | Meet at Forest Rd carpark for regrowth gorse weeding along the edge of the uphill side of Forest Rd. extension well beyond the boom gate in 193 Forest Road and beyond, KR22 & KR23. |
| Thursday 19th March  | Meet at Forest Rd carpark for old growth gorse removal along the Weerona Trail, KR13. |
| Thursday 2nd April  | Meet at Forest Rd carpark |
| Thursday 16th April | Meet at Forest Rd carpark for regrowth gorse weeding uphill along Forest Rd. extension well beyond the boom gate past 193 Forest Road, KR22. |
| Sunday 19th April  | Meet at Forest Rd carpark |
| Thursday 7th May  | Meet at the Forest Road carpark for vehicle travel and Mt Stuart carpark for walking to wayleave maintenance from the west/south split up to the summit and from the Lenah Valley end up to the summit. |
| Sunday 17th May | Meet at Forest Rd carpark for gorse weeding above the Sandy Spit Track from the Mt Stuart Track 2nd big bend towards Salvator Rosa Glen, KR18. |
| Thursday 21st May  | Meet at the Forest Road carpark for wayleave maintenance from the Forest Rd carpark up to the west/south split and down the South Hobart feeder. |
| Thursday 4th June  | Meet at Forest Rd carpark for regrowth gorse weeding uphill along Forest Rd. extension well beyond the boom gate past 193 Forest Road, KR22. |
| Thursday 18th June  | Meet at Forest Rd carpark for regrowth gorse removal below the Weerona Trail downhill from the Bandicoot Corridor, KR14. |
| Sunday 21st June | Meet in Bimbadene Court for gorse weeding above Weerona Trail in the marsupial lawn area, KR7 |
| Thursday 2nd July  | Meet at Forest Rd carpark for regrowth gorse removal below the Weerona Trail downhill from the Bandicoot Corridor, KR14. |
| Thursday 16th July  | Meet at Forest Rd carpark for gorse removal above the Weerona Trail, KR13. |
| Sunday 19th July | Meet at Forest Rd carpark for gorse weeding above the Sandy Spit Track near Salvator Rosa Glen on the wayleave side, KR18. |

|  |
| --- |
| **FoKL Activity Calendar for 2020 Revision 2 [continued].** **Thursdays [9 to 11.30 am], Sundays [2-4.30 pm].** Please note this is only a guide, activities may change to suit Reserve requirements. |
| Thursday 6th August | Meet at Forest Rd carpark |
| Sunday 16th August  | Meet at end of Weerona Avenue grass planting (if permissible) above the Weerona Trail, KR7. |
| Thursday 20th August | Meet at Forest Rd carpark for an activity to be determine on the day. |
| Thursday 3rd September  | Meet at end of Weerona Avenue for Euryops, Boneseed and gorse removal above the Weerona Trail, KR7. |
| Thursday 17th September  | Meet at Forest Rd carpark for an activity to be determine on the day.**Glover Track?** |
| Sunday 20th September | Meet at the upper Salvator Rd carparking area for weeding Forget-me-nots and hemlock along the Salvator Rosa Glen Track from Knocklofty Reserve Track toward the City, KR28. |
| Thursday 1st October  | Meet at Forest Rd carpark for gorse removal in the old fence line area uphill from the Weerona Trail, KR13 |
| Thursday 15th October | Meet at Forest Rd carpark for forget-me-not and thistle removal in Providence Rivulet Gully, KR14. |
| Sunday 18th October  | Meet at Forest Rd carpark for regrowth growth gorse removal around Trig Hill, KR24 & 25. **Alternatively** botanical walkaround then plant give-away maybe? |
| Thursday 5th November  | Meet at the Forest Road carpark for vehicle travel to wayleave maintenance from the west/south split up to the summit, & Mt Stuart carpark for walking to wayleave maintenance from the Lenah Valley end up to the summit. |
| Sunday 15th November | Meet at Forest Rd carpark for gorse removal in the old fence line area uphill from the Weerona Trail, KR13 |
| Thursday 19th November  | Meet at the Forest Road carpark for wayleave maintenance from the Forest Rd carpark up to the west/south split and down the South Hobart feeder, then regrowth gorse weeding around Trig Hill, KR24. |
| Thursday 3rd December  | Meet at Forest Rd carpark for an activity to be determine on the day. |

