

2016

November 2016 News

This month we have concentrated on the gorse patches on the slopes above the tip, towards the end of Forest Rd. That hillside is due to be burnt in March next year. We have done the wayleave from Lenah Valley, over the top and down to the 'crossover'.

October 2016 News

The reserve is so wet, I have seen Ross Rivulet running more often this spring, than ever before, The soil is soft and saturated and trees are falling over in the high winds.

Of course it's good for the plants, and the fecundity of the fauna. However, the weeds are also growing apace.

This month we have worked on patches of small gorse on the far western side of KR 23.

The activity on the plant-give-away day was rained out, but Bec, Robyn and Greg stayed on for 4 o'clock, and handed out many plants in the wet.

GOOD ON THEM.

September 2016 News

The hazard reduction burn I mentioned in last month's program did go ahead.

It was a grey, slightly wet weekend, and it seems that only in a few areas did the fire get really hot.

It was mainly the private property off Summerhill Rd. that was targeted.

The fire on the eastern slope of Knocklofty was more patchy.

September saw two of our activities cancelled due to rain, but the frogs are singing!

August 2016 News

Two of this month's activities were spent going over the area cleared by the contractors, cutting and pasting the small gorse.

The contractors were only required to cut big gorse.

We feel it is important to kill all gorse before a hazard reduction burn, which is due in the autumn.

Then we went to the Mt. Stuart end of the reserve and pulled Euryops.

Because of the good winter rains, there were a lot of little seedlings.

July 2016 News

The first activity of the month went with an inspection of the private property 193 Forest Rd. with Sue Rae from CoH, Astrid and Bruce, The rest of the team did some roving weeding. CoH bushcare unit has accepted the conclusions from the inspection, and we are now pursuing the permissions for working on that property. After the work and morning tea, Rob Bennett, Fire Officer, and Lisa C. from CoH came, and Rob told us about the plans for fire hazard reduction burns, that will happen in the reserve in the coming years. Thus, on the Sunday we did roving weeding around the boundary of the property that used to be Mrs. Fielding's in preparation for the burn in spring. Tas. Fire Service will be conducting the burn, with the help of CoH.

June 2016 News

The reserve is greening up with all the rain, in spite of the time of year. But then the weather has not yet been really cold. Our activities went well, we have done the gorse by the GPS points Bruce determined on his weed mapping in January. And the Mt. Stuart end is looking good. Lisa Cawthen joined us for morning coffee on the 3rd Thursday. We are discussing the possibility of working on the private property of Forest Rd. no. 193. The contractors have finished the gorse cutting along the extension of Forest Rd., and 193 is now the last weed infested plot in the area. We contacted the owners some years ago with regard to the weeds. At that time they were not interested in co-operating with us. However, we have contacted them again, and they are now interested in our help. There is some red tape with regard to signed permission and insurance. This is being worked out with the help of the bushcare unit at CoH.

An access road for bikes and pedestrians has been made from Giblin St. past the quarry and into the reserve by the Lenah Valley boundary.

May 2016 News

With the high winds and precipitation in the middle of May, two of our work days had to be cancelled. Thus our June program will be a catch up on activities. Also CoH's bushcare unit has secured money to pay contractors to work in KR 22/23. So we are in the process of reassessing our annual calendar.

Our June program is therefore a bit sketchy. However, the starting point is given.

April 2016 News

Our first two activities this month went well.

We are slowly cutting and pasting our way through the old gorse at the very end of Forest Rd.

On the Sunday we were on our own, as the CoH bush crew was busy with hazard reduction burns round Hobart.

And then on the third Thursday we had a tiny bit of rain, for the first time in a month, and we had to cancel the activity!

We wouldn't have minded if we had a good days rain, but none of that. The bush is as dry as dust.

The right-of-way from Loudon St. in South Hobart up to Forest Rd. has been cleared by the Green Army.

So there is now access to the reserve from that point.

Here is some news from Lisa at CoH. I'll get a paper copy, and it will be available on loan, for people who prefer to read a hard copy.

Hi Astrid,

My report on the Knocklofty Open Day went to Parks and Recreation committee this month for acceptance. The meeting agenda including report is available here. The report was accepted and is now available on our webpage here. If FOKL would like a hard copy let me know and I can print copies out. I wasn't in attendance at the committee meeting but I am told the Alderman received the report very positively.

- Lisa

March 2016 News

The first Thursday of March activity was more big (and little) gorse, English broom and Hawthorn removal along the old Forest Road well beyond the old house site and the private triangular block. There's lots more to work on along there, so we'll be back! Come and join us.

We had fewer Members for the wayleave activity on the third Thursday but still managed to cover the slopes either side of the summit finding a few *Eucalyptus pulchella* – White peppermint and, on both sides, patches of *Acacia melanoxylon* – Blackwoods. We left the western slope ones as they are only up to 1m high but some on the eastern slope were removed. Some taller *Allocasuarina verticillata* – She oaks and *Exocarpos cupressiformis* - Native cherries were height trimmed.

Attendance at the Sunday activity was also down in numbers but we spent a pleasant afternoon well up the slope from the Sandy Spit Track trying to locate the gorse among the thick vegetation that were noted during the January weed search

traverses and GPS positioned. The last location was out in the open on the brow of the hill and we'll need to return to finish that area.

February 2016 News

The year started well, with three activities on the extension of Forest Rd. towards the Tip.

The re-growth gorse is hard to get at, and hours were spent with only a small area cleared.

Bec, our COH supervisor suggested maybe we could put it on our 'wish list' for next year's spray program by the VMT.

This seems a very good idea, and we can then get on to the more scattered, bigger, old gorse on the southern hillside.

After more than 8 years as FoKL members (this is as far back my records go, it could be more), Michael S. and Victoria R. are leaving us for a world tour and resettlement on the mainland.

They have been very reliable and hard -working Sunday participants , and in our CORE team as decision makers, and as advisors in responses to COH regulations.

We wish them all the best.