

Projects

Since 1992 when FoKL was formed, projects on Knocklofty have been designed around grants received from the Australian Government or the Hobart City Council.

Completed

March 1994 Australian Grant of \$2000 for equipment to clear a section of Knocklofty Reserve near the Concrete Water tank of gorse and other woody weeds.

This was an all volunteer activity. A large quarry was cleared and an area around a pond later called "The Reflecting Pond." Some planting of local provenance plants was made.

1995 to 1999 a number of projects were undertaken by FoKL volunteers in association with the Hobart City Council and local schools.

Repairing culverts on the Poets track.

Clearing woody weeds, and planting at the lower Forest Road access to the Reserve.

Clearing woody weeds [mainly gorse] between the two main fire trails and planting with local provenance native seedlings.

Rehabilitation of the Frog Dam [1998 to 2002]

An old farm dam and water tank overflow collector as a frog pond, which became known as the Frog Dam. This dam used to fill in rainy weather.. It was contained a copse of willow, the sandstone surrounds were scattered and it drained rapidly during dry periods.

The story of its rehabilitation was published in a booklet for Grade 3 to 6 students called *"Bringing the Frogs back to Knocklofty"*

The steps involved included removal of the willows by HCC staff, removal of other woody weeds by FoKL volunteers, the repositioning of the sandstone surrounds by a Greencorp team, identification of the source of the leak from the dam by FoKL volunteers, excavating an area of the pond and sealing it with a bentonite blanket by contractors using a \$5000 grant from the HCC, repositioning of the juncus and other plants removed during excavating by FoKL, and multiple planting around the Frog Dam by FokL volunteers and school children volunteers supported by HCC staff. Our last planting was in 2008.

Copies of the booklet can be accessed by contacting the Co-ordinator

1998-2002 Natural Heritage Trust Grants Project No. BCC200866 and BCC30570

FoKL applied for a grant in 1998 entitled

"Restoration of Threatened Flora Communities and Habitats for Threatened Fauna on Knocklofty Reserve"

While the application for 1998 received support from Tasmania, it failed to receive Australian Government approval. A modified application was submitted in 1999 and was awarded a grant of \$40,200. The application was for a three year funded project and with the support of subsequent applications in 2000 and 2001, received continued support from the Australian Government with grants of \$30,850 and \$35,632.

In addition to the grants from the Natural Heritage Trust the following contribution was made by FoKL, the HCC, and other volunteers.

“ In-Kind” contribution	Proponent [FOKL]	Contributor 1 [HCC]	Contributor 2 [Wildcare]	Total
Pledged	\$51300	\$116100	\$15000	\$182400
Actual	\$113368	\$213557		\$326925
% Increase	221	184		179

The Project summary was:-

Knocklofty Reserve was used last century for farming, quarrying, and timber collection. Parts of this Reserve are degraded due to poor management in the past. The Friends of Knocklofty in partnership with the HCC aim to protect and restore rare plant communities on the Reserve and to improve the habitat for indigenous fauna, especially threatened species. This project will assist the restoration by enabling wetlands to be restored and extending the habitats of the endangered Swift Parrot and Eastern Barred Bandicoot. Weed infestation will be controlled and replaced with local flora, which will reduce the high fire hazard.

The Objectives were:-

Long term objectives (after three years)

Protect and re-establish local flora to improve habitat for endangered species as per recovery plans.

Eliminate soil erosion by re-directing run-off into permanent wetlands, thus preventing tunnel erosion and increasing the frog population.

Improve the environment for endangered swift parrots and eastern barred bandicoots by providing extra habitat and food sources [by the planting of suitable vegetation].

Improve public awareness of indigenous plants and animals and the public's role in protecting natural heritage.

Short term objectives (to be achieved in three years or less)

Restore and replant degraded and eroded areas with 1600 local flora.

Re-establish wetlands in the Reserve.

Improve the awareness of natural heritage in the local community, by erecting educational signs, involving the community and schools in the project, publishing awareness brochures, etc.

Part of the funding was used to engage Andrew North to carry out a botanical survey of the reserve and in conjunction with an HCC Fire Management Plan prepare a Weed Management Plan for FoKL and the HCC to implement in partnership. This plan contained a prescriptive 3 year action plan to eradicate woody weeds in the reserve and plant suitable local provenance species of native plants in areas overrun with weeds or requiring new habitat for threatened fauna species.

A copy of the report without tables and maps can be downloaded as a pdf. To view the complete document, please contact the FoKL Co-ordinator.

During the three year period, the following achievements were made:-

Issues	Response
Locate woody weeds and threatened native flora	Mapped the reserve and produced a Vegetation Management Plan describing plant communities and containing maps showing these communities, woody weeds, and threatened native flora. Woody weeds were controlled by cut and paste or hooded spraying so that native flora were protected. One threatened flora species [<i>Acacia gunnii</i>] was propagated from seeds and cuttings.
Action plan for weed removal and native flora plantings	Implemented the Vegetation Management Plan. This complemented the Fire Management Plan which was produced for the area in 1998. 98.7 hectares of bushland were regenerated and over 13,000 native seedlings planted.
Locate threatened fauna	Carried out fauna and bird surveys to establish their location
Action plan for fauna habitat improvement	In-corporated survey information into the Vegetation Management Plan and used the information to plant native flora to improve the habitat of both the eastern barred bandicoot and the swift parrot.
Locate frog habitats and erosion problems	Evaluated all areas where water collects for existing and potential frog ponds or diversion of run-off.
Action plan for improving frog habitat and reducing erosion	Carried out hard landscaping with mechanical help on selected new and existing sites to maximise water retention, and followed up with soft landscaping using wetland and aquatic plants.
Identify community interest and awareness in Reserve	Carried out a survey of Reserve users and used the information to plan restoration work.

Action plan for community interest and awareness.	Researched history of the reserve and prepared various publications. Prepared frequent updates of achievements for publication. Used mail outs, emails, media advertising, pamphlets, video, to delineate information. Also produced and erected interpretative and directional signs in the Reserve. Organised community events such as National Tree Planting Day in 2001 and Telstra Planting Day in 2002.
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The text of a detailed report on the achievements by FoKL in partnership with the HCC to restore Knocklofty can be down loaded as a pdf entitled:-

*Natural Heritage Trust Project on Knocklofty Reserve.
October 1999 to December 2002*

Project No. BCC200866 and BCC30570

Subject: The achievements of bushland restoration on Knocklofty Reserve between 1999 and 2002 with references to all documents published during this period.

Prepared by : Tony Ault, February 2003

2002-2003 Australian Government Envirofund Grant 38332

In May 2002 FoKL applied for a grant and received \$26,364 in November 2002.

The Objective was:-

“To restore the local native flora and improve the habitat of native fauna on the Knocklofty Reserve. We are especially focused on providing habitat for the endangered swift parrot and threatened eastern barred bandicoot.”

In summary, the project would

“ expand our previous work to protect the habitat of threatened species and to restore the native flora by removing environmental weeds. Knocklofty reserve has colonies of the endangered swift parrot and the threatened eastern barred bandicoot, as well as nine recorded rare and threatened species of flora and high priority vegetation communities including grassy Eucalyptus ovata. Heavy infestations of weeds remain in parts of the reserve and the grant will enable the primary removal of these weeds by contractors. Our volunteers can then keep the cleared areas weed free and provide in-fill planting of native flora”.

A report was prepared by FoKL at the end of the project showing the outcomes. [ie]

Project Title: Rehabilitation of native flora in the high biodiversity Knocklofty Reserve

Project No: 38332

Subject: Envirofund Project 2003 on Knocklofty Reserve

Prepared by: Tony Ault

Co-ordinator, Friends of Knocklofty Bushcare Group

Date: 4th March 2004

Summary

The Friends of Knocklofty Bushcare Group's 2003 Envirofund grant was used to employ contractors to remove gorse, blackberry and spanish heath from heavily infested areas in the Reserve. A team from Greening Australia cleared three of these areas. These were; 1.4 hectares of heavily gorse infested dry sclerophyl Eucalyptus obliqua shrubby forest in a steep gully on the eastern slope of Knocklofty, 0.1 hectare of heavily blackberry infested dry sclerophyl Eucalyptus amygdalina heathy forest in a steep gully near the Poets Road entrance to the Reserve, and 0.5 hectare of scattered spanish heath [Erica lusitanica] along the power easement near the summit of Knocklofty. In addition, new woody weed seedlings around sites cleared during the NHT project of 2000-2002 were sprayed by the contractor Tasflora.

The decision to select the contractor by tender and the use of a mechanised approach to clear the 1.4 hectare area heavily infested by gorse, enabled all the project objectives to be met with the available funds. The successful tender was for \$22,850. It has been estimated that if the contractor had been employed at an hourly rate using the traditional cut and paste method, \$40,000 would have been required to complete the work.

The Friends of Knocklofty Bushcare Group [FOKL] voluntary contribution worth \$32,338, for flora and fauna rehabilitation on Knocklofty Reserve was almost double that promised in the Envirofund 2003 application. Also the contribution by the Hobart City Council of \$87,499 was over four times that promised. These contributions involved primary weeding, site maintenance, fire management, propagation and planting of 2568 seedlings, and trapping surveys of native fauna in the "Green".

A pdf of the text of this report can be down loaded. The full report can be seeing by contacting the Co-ordinator.

2003-2004 Australian Government Envirofund Grant Project 43624

In June 2003 FoKL in partnership with the HCC applied for and received \$29,500 for a project entitled

"Rehabilitation of native flora in the Mt.Stuart area of high biodiversity Knocklofty Reserve."

In summary the project was designed to:

This project will expand our work of protecting the habitat of threatened species and restoring the native flora by removing environmental weeds in the Mt. Stuart end of the

Reserve. Heavy occurrences of gorse remain in this vulnerable grassy *Eucalyptus globulus* forest, particularly along a track recently upgraded by a Greencorp team. The area of concern is home to three threatened plant species, *Lepidium pseudotasmanicum*, *Velleia paradoxa*, and *Vittadinia muelleri*. Primary weeding of this 8.4 hectare area will enable FOKL volunteers and HCC bushland staff to provide future maintenance and in-fill planting. This is a new area within the reserve with new community involvement.

The achievements of this project are shown in the final report:-

Rehabilitation of native flora in the Mt.Stuart area of high biodiversity Knocklofty Reserve Envirofund Project 2004 on Knocklofty Reserve Project No: 43624

4th March 2005

Prepared by: Tony Ault

Summary

The Friends of Knocklofty Bushcare Group's 2004 Envirofund grant was used to employ contractors to remove gorse, boneseed, and europys from heavily infested areas in the Mt.Stuart end of Knocklofty Reserve. A team from Tasflora cleared two of the five areas targeted for woody weed removal. These were; 2360m² in K13 near the Green end of the Mt.Stuart track covered in heavy gorse among a dry sclerophyll *Eucalyptus pulchella* grassy forest.: 1.41 hectares [14100 m²] consisting of the vulnerable dry sclerophyll *Eucalyptus globulus* grassy forest heavily infested in parts by gorse, boneseed, and europys in MS9 adjacent to the Fiona Allen Memorial track. In addition, blackberry in other recently rehabilitated areas of Knocklofty were sprayed by Tasflora.

Friends of Knocklofty Bushcare [FOKL] volunteers have started clearing a third site MS5 at the junction of the Mt.Stuart and Fiona Allen tracks.

The Friends of Knocklofty Bushcare Group [FOKL] voluntary contribution worth \$68480 for flora and fauna rehabilitation on Knocklofty Reserve was three times the \$22,380 promised in the Envirofund 2004 application. Also the contribution by the Hobart City Council of \$70,487 was over twice the \$29,000 promised. These contributions included primary weeding, site maintenance, fire management, propagation and planting of 1562 seedlings, and trapping surveys of native fauna in the "Green".

A copy of the text of this report is available as a pdf download.

2004-2006 Australian Government Envirofund Grant 48769

In June 2004, FoKL in partnership with the HCC applied for and received a grant of \$26,472 for a project entitled

"Rehabilitation of habitat for threatened fauna in Salvator Rosa Glen"

Objectives

This project will restore habitat of resident native fauna, including the threatened Eastern Barred Bandicoot, through weed removal and revegetation with endemic species. Contractors will tackle weed infestations on precipices inaccessible to volunteers, which are an ongoing source of seed to the surrounding bush.

Salvator Rosa Glen is strategically located to improve access to the neighbouring residents and give them opportunities to participate in the restoration activities. The area is also culturally significant, with historical quarries and a vista captured by Colonial Artist John Glover in 1831.

Interpretive signs and brochures will provide information on threatened fauna and their habitat for reserve visitors.

Achievements

The entire rehabilitation area of 6 hectares has been cleared entirely of woody weeds including large stands of broom in an old quarry and heavy infestations of gorse above and on the face of the quarry cliff. Contractors were used to remove the woody weeds from areas requiring access with rope or crane support.

Over 1000 local provenance native plants, including many propagated from cutting from the reserve by FoKL volunteers, in three plantings along the fire trail and walking track now known as the Glover Interpretative Trail.

Volunteer hours by FoKL in removing the weeds, planting, planning activities was over 2000, with 600 hours from an individual volunteer.

A set of eight fauna postcards were produced and are available as a pdf download. They feature a range of common and threatened fauna species.

A fauna interpretative sign was prepared and erected near the Lookout. Since then FoKL have funded a second sign at the Mt.Stuart end of the reserve.