

MINUTES OF FRIENDS OF KNOCKLOFTY PLANNING MEETING 21 January 2021

Present: Astrid Wright (*in the chair*), Jim Anderson, Pip Jones (CoH), Greg Summers, Rod Arnold, David Smith, Craig Macaulay, Gabrielle Balon (CoH), Mary Chandler and Bruce Champion (*Minutes secretary*).

Apology: Sally Wayte, Jeff Dunn, Robyn Mounster, Lu Zhang (Mabel), Ann Hughes, Talia Sayers and Rod Giblin

1. **Convenor's Report:** Astrid's report was presented, see pages 3 and 4.

2. **FoKL Officers:** The following agreed to hold positions for 2021

Office	2021
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 * Astrid Wright Jim Anderson Rod Arnold Greg Summers	Some retrainings will be provided by COH to people who need it. (<i>To be confirmed</i>) Due: Jim Anderson (April) Astrid Wright (April) Greg Summers (August)
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 without an amendment see pages 4 and 5.

1. Weed Control

The Reserve is in pretty good condition after the good rain falls and most effort went into the regrowth gorse, hawthorn, bone seed, Euryops, hemlock, forget-me-not, thistles, capeweed and foxgloves in KR4, 7, 13, 14, 18, 22 and 23

During the pandemic lockdown, Astrid, Greg and Rodney, working as 'Independent Volunteers' did the May TasNetworks wayleave maintenance. The November and December works were done by the usual Members. The TasNetworks/CoH contract is currently being renewed.

Bruce is contacting the owners of the 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 requesting the 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 seedling gorse and hawthorn. More work will also be required in the area west of 193, KR22.

2. Miscellaneous

The excellent new Glover Track signs were made and installed by Eye Spy personnel in early 2000.

A walk/talk with Prof. Bowman was conducted during 2020. He pointed out how fire prone the land surrounding Hobart is and this includes Knocklofty Reserve. He feels patch burns, or cultural burning as the first nations people would have done, would be beneficial.

An UTAS student, Lauren Jakob conducted a photographic animal survey in Knocklofty Reserve and noted quolls and devil(s) as well as both species of bandicoots plus wallabies etc. cats and dogs. She has been invited to conduct a walk and talk in the Reserve in February.

With permission from the CoH Manager of Bushland Reserves and plenty of Members and helpers, 240 plants of four species of grasses and 20 Saggs were planted in the area of old burnt gorse where the regrowth spraying has been very successful, uphill from Weerona Trail above the small pond. An activity this year in August will be to remove the guards and stakes from the larger plants.

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3. Funds

The funds held for FoKL by CoH and in our CBA account + petty cash are still very healthy at \$ 9,829.65. The surplus for the year was \$764.82. \$3,575.50 was required for the replacement of the Glover Track signs. The \$50 donation from the Mt Stuart Primary School was received after Astrid took two grade 2/3 classes on walks around the Reserve.

4. Visitors to the Reserve

The count of visitors to the Reserve was about 138,000 for 2020, about 20,000 more than the count for 2019, probably due to the large number of visitors during the COVID-19 shut down and in the following months after they realised how pleasant our Reserve is for recreation.

5. Debris from fire trail set-back trimming

Contractors have been clearing a set-back along the Trails in the Reserve and dumping cut material back onto the bushland, especially the hawthorn from the private properties along the southern side of the extension of Forest Road which has been dumped back up the embankment onto the Reserve in KR22. This was considered by Astrid, Bruce and other Members to be a worse fire hazard than leaving the plants uncut as the cut material dries and burns more fiercely. The thorns on the hawthorn also present a health hazard to members weeding along the top of the embankment.

Pip advised she had made enquiries and the cut material is to be removed as part of the contract. This will be monitored around the Reserve, especially along the Forest Rd extension.

Astrid was very concerned that a lot of vegetation had been cut around the junction of the Main and Weerona Trails and the Sandy Spit Track considering the reaction of previous CoH Reserve Management to FoKL's request for a table and seats amid the Silver wattles on the southern corner of this junction with little or no removal of vegetation.

Astrid and Bruce will resubmit the proposal to try to have a table with seats installed within the grove of Silver wattles.

OTHER BUSINESS

1. Activity Calendar

FoKL's Activity Calendar 2021 Rev. 0 was issued to Members and discussed. Some minor revisions and additions were made. The revised calendar is included in these minutes, pages 5 and 6, and the management areas referred to in the Program are shown on the Knocklofty Reserve map on page 7.

2. Salvator Rosa Glen

A management plan for the Salvator Rosa Glen section of the Reserve has been prepared and submitted for approval by Pip.

4. Weerona Trail/Providence Gully Area

The outside Company that worked with us for forget-me-not and thistle removal may still be interested in coming to help. Astrid will contact them later in the year.

5. Gorse in 133 Forest Road

Bruce has contacted the owner of 133 Forest Road, Mr Ted Giannis, and asked if we can help remove the gorse from his property. He is enthusiastic and will check for insurance coverage. Pip was asked to find out what type of insurance, public liability or personal accident, is required by CoH and, apart from a letter of agreement from the owner, is any other documentation required?

The meeting closed at about 8.35 pm and was followed by another splendid supper provided by Jenny and Greg. This was greatly enjoyed by all.

Thank you Astrid, Jenny and Greg.

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January 2021

KNOCKLOFTY RESERVE Annual Report for the year 2020

The year 2020 was stamped with the COVID-19 pandemic and 'lock downs'. People's movements and activities were restricted and this also affected FoKL. COH cancelled all organised activities in every park and reserve from March till June, this also included bushcare groups.

However, with sporting activities, gyms, dancing etc. and big gatherings banned and schools closed, all reserves saw a big increase in individuals and families visiting for some fresh air and exercise. In Knocklofty Reserve the council opened the other half of Forest Rd. car park, and it was upgraded.

The reserve now covers 155 ha. Much of our activity this year was concentrated on the latest addition of 9 ha, the area around the Weerona Trail. With a rainy spring and winter, we were able to do some revegetation in August. We purchased endemic grasses from 'Plants of Tasmania Nursery', Ridgeway, and received a donation of Saggs from the Australian Plant Society Tasmania Hobart Group's Kingston Nursery, and planted 260 small plants as follows:

<i>Austrostipa stiposa</i>	Corkscrew speargrass
<i>Microlaena stipoides</i>	Weeping grass
<i>Themeda triandra</i>	Kangaroo grass
<i>Poa labillardierei</i>	Silver tussockgrass
<i>Rytidosperma caespitosum</i>	Common wallabygrass
<i>Lomandra longifolia</i>	Sagg

The updating of the new, very attractive website www.friendsofknocklofty.org was started.

WEED CONTROL

With the good precipitation, the weeds grew very fast and the spread of forget-me-nots, cape weed, Euryops, hemlock, foxglove, thistles and the usual gorse, broom and boneseed was extensive. We tried to keep on top of it by hand pulling the plants before they could flower. This gives the endemic flora a better chance.

TASNETWORKS

May's program included the half yearly wayleave maintenance. Council bushcare was cancelled. So, as a group we could not do it, but three of us, Rodney, Greg and I, are registered individually as 'Independent Volunteer' and we were able to do the maintenance over four Thursdays. Our five year contract finished at the end of October, and we are waiting to see if it will be renewed.

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS

We paid for the renewal of the main Glover Track signs. The council also put in new signs at some of the entrances to the reserve. We had some input with regards to the maps and wording.

Some *Acacia melanoxylon*, Blackwoods were removed from Salvator Rosa Glen, and a management plan is being developed.

We had a walk/talk with Prof. Bowman, he pointed out how fire prone the land surrounding Hobart is and this includes Knocklofty Reserve. He feels patch burns, or cultural burning as the first nations people would have done, would be beneficial. More open land with fewer trees makes less of a fire storm. Landscapes are always evolving and maybe striving for a dense tree cover is not the ideal.

Lauren Jakob's study showed that there are Tasmanian Devils in the reserve.

FINANCES

There was a misunderstanding with regard to our TasNetwork invoice and GST was taken out, but that will be rectified.

- \$ 9338.70 held by COH
- \$ 361.15 in CBA account

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- \$ 129.80 in petty cash
- Total funds \$ 9829.65

Income

- \$ 1568.18 from TasNetworks for wayleave work
- \$ 150 grant from Landcare Tasmania
- \$ 50 donation from Mt. Stuart Primary School
- Total \$ 1768.18

Expenditure

- \$ 1003.30 plants, web charges, subscriptions, tools, admin and refreshments.
- Surplus \$ 764.82
- The \$ 3575.50 for the new Glover signs was paid direct from the COH account to the supplier.

VOLUNTEERS

In spite of the 7 months hiatus in programmed activities, the volunteer hours increased. Our total 'on ground' was 1202 hours and some 200 hours in preparation of notices and administration etc.

We now have eight members registered as 'Independent Volunteer'. Some of us broke up, scattered or wind rowed the burnt gorse canes above the Weerona Trail in readiness for the planting of the grasses.

Many overseas students joined us when bushcare officially started up again.

Rex spent many hours re-doing the website.

Bruce kept doing the signs, to let people know we were still around.

Rodney updated his 'first aid'.

Some of us helped other bushcare groups that needed extra hands.

The Friends of Knocklofty are active and helpful, and it is a pleasure to be part of the team.

Astrid D. Wright, Convenor,
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!"

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FoKL Activity Calendar for 2021. Revision 0 1st and 3rd Thursdays [9 to 11.30 am], 3rd Sundays [2-4.30 pm]. Please note this is only a guide, activities may change to suit Reserve requirements.	
Thursday 4 th February	Meet at Forest Rd carpark for regrowth gorse weeding around Trig Hill, KR24.
Thursday 18 th February	Meet at Forest Rd carpark for gorse weeding above the Sandy Spit Track near Salvator Rosa Glen on the wayleave side, KR18.
Sunday 21 st February	Meet at Forest Rd carpark for a walk around the Reserve with a talk by Lauren Jakob about her animal survey.
Thursday 4 th March	Meet at Bimbadeen Crt for thistle weeding above Weerona Trail, KR07.
Thursday 18 th March	Meet at Bimbadeen Crt for thistle weeding above Weerona Trail, KR07.
Sunday 21 st 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 1 st April	Meet at Forest Rd carpark for roving weeding south of the carpark, KR26.
Thursday 15 th April	Meet at Forest Rd carpark for regrowth gorse weeding uphill along Forest Rd. extension well beyond the boom gate in 193 Forest Road and KR22.
Sunday 18 th April	Meet at end of Weerona Avenue for Euryops, Boneseed and gorse plus star pickets and barbed wire removal above the Weerona Trail, KR7.
Thursday 6 th May	Meet at the Forest Road carpark for 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 16 th May	Meet at Forest Rd carpark for gorse weeding above the Sandy Spit Track from the Mt Stuart Track 2 nd big bend towards Salvator Rosa Glen, KR18.
Thursday 20 th 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 3 rd June	Meet at Bimbadeen Court for boneseed weeding in Providence Gully, KR7.
Thursday 17 th June	Meet in Bimbadeen Court for gorse weeding above Weerona Trail in the marsupial lawn area, KR7.
Sunday 20 th June	Meet at Forest Rd carpark for regrowth gorse removal below the Weerona Trail downhill from the Bandicoot Corridor, KR14.
Thursday 1 st July	Meet at Forest Rd carpark for regrowth gorse removal below the Weerona Trail well downhill from the Bandicoot Corridor, KR14.
Thursday 15 th July	Meet at Bimbadeen Court carpark for gorse removal in the old fence line area uphill from the Weerona Trail, KR13.
Sunday 18 th July	Meet at Forest Rd carpark for regrowth gorse weeding uphill along Forest Rd. extension well beyond the boom gate in 193 Forest Road and KR22.

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<p>FoKL Activity Calendar for 2021 Revision 0 [continued].</p> <p>1st and 3rd Thursdays [9 to 11.30 am], 3rd Sundays [2-4.30 pm].</p> <p>Please note this is only a guide, activities may change to suit Reserve requirements.</p>	
Thursday 5 th August	Meet at Poets Road carpark for roving weeding for gorse up the NE side of the Glover Track, KR21.
Sunday 15 th August	Meet at Forest Road carpark for a bird watching tour of the Reserve with an expert bird observer.
Thursday 19 th August	Meet at end of Weerona Avenue for grass planting maintenance above the Weerona Trail, KR7.
Thursday 2 nd September	Meet at Bimbadeen Court for hawthorn weeding downhill from the Weerona Trail above the large quarry.
Thursday 16 th September	Meet at Forest Rd carpark for forget-me-not and thistle removal in Providence Rivulet Gully, KR14.
Sunday 19 th 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 7 th October	Meet at Forest Rd carpark for forget-me-not and thistle removal in Providence Rivulet Gully, KR14.
Thursday 21 st October	Meet at Forest Rd carpark for forget-me-not and thistle removal in Providence Rivulet Gully, KR14.
Sunday 17 th October	Meet at Forest Rd carpark for regrowth gorse weeding uphill along Forest Rd. extension well beyond the boom gate in 193 Forest Road and KR22 then plant give-away.
Thursday 4 th November	Meet at the Forest Road carpark for 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.
Thursday 21 st 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 along Forest Rd extension.
Sunday 21 st November	Meet at Forest Rd carpark for broom and regrowth gorse weeding uphill along Forest Rd. extension well beyond the boom gate past 193 Forest Road, KR22.
Thursday 2 nd December	Meet at Forest Rd carpark for an activity to be determine on the day.

FRIENDS OF KNOCKLOFTY 2021 map with KR areas tracks & trails

