

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 Sagg 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
- \$ 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.
