

MINUTES OF FRIENDS OF KNOCKLOFTY PLANNING MEETING 19 January 2022

Present: Astrid Wright (*in the chair*), Greg Summers, Rod Arnold, David Smith, Craig Macaulay, Sally Wayte, Anne Hughes, Rob Giblin, Tony James and Bruce Champion (*Minutes secretary*).

Apology: Sonya Stallbaum and Talia Sawers CoH, Jeff Dunn, Stephan Mattingly, Gabrielle Balon and Jim Anderson

1. **Convenor's Report:** Astrid's report was presented and accepted, 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	Tony James (Battery Point) storage and maintenance back up Craig Macaulay if Tony is to be away for the next activity.
Qualified in Senior First Aid Astrid Wright Jim Anderson Rod Arnold Greg Summers	No retrainings will be required this year as no one is Due:
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 still in pretty good condition after the good rain falls during 2021 and most effort again 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.

The TasNetworks/CoH contract has been renewed for another five years. Some *Allocasuarinas* and *Banksias* have been completely cut down and some larger *Allocasuarinas* require contractor action. This action had been requested by TasNetworks to completely reduce the risk to the overhead conductors. Astrid and Rodney will meet with TasNetworks people to discuss removal of edge of wayleave *Eucalypts* which have been pink taped.

More work is required in 193 Forest Road (KR23) and also in the area west of 193, KR22.

2. Miscellaneous

A walk/talk with UTAS student, Lauren Jakob who 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 was conduct in the Reserve in February.

Another walk/talk session was held to observe/listen for birds with Denis Abbott.

The 240 plants of four species of grasses and 20 Saggs which were planted uphill from Weerona Trail above the small pond have been very successful, especially in the plant guards and in an activity in August it was decided to remove the guards and stakes only from the larger plants.

Discussions are continuing between Astrid and Greg Milne of CoH regarding the rustic seating proposal of three large logs in a semi-circle among the *Acacia dealbata*, Silver wattles, near the Bandicoot Corridor facing over the Providence Gully valley. Astrid would like to have several large sandstone blocks located within the semi-circle to deter youngsters from have a small fire and to provide platforms for our refreshments when in this area.

FoKL will be responsible for woody weed removal inside along the SE boundary of the Optus property beside the Knocklofty Terrace area KR15 this year and will engage a contractor.

3. Funds

The funds held for FoKL by CoH and in our CBA account + petty cash are still very healthy at \$11,786.77. The surplus for the year was \$1,800.30. \$329.70 was spent on web site fees, tools, administration and refreshments. Chocolate biscuit donations were received from the Lansdowne Crescent and The Friends Primary Schools after Astrid took two classes on walks around the Reserve.

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4. Visitors to the Reserve

The CoH count of visitors to the Reserve was about 150,000 for 2021, about 12,000 more than the count for 2020, again due to the large number of visitors during the COVID-19 pandemic because they realise how pleasant our Reserve is for recreation.

OTHER BUSINESS

1. Activity Calendar

FoKL's Activity Calendar 2022 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. *Chaostola skipper* butterfly proposed workshop

CoH tried to organise a workshop on site in the Reserve to introduce people to the special needs of the *Chaostola skipper* butterfly, wingspan about 30mm. The caterpillar of this butterfly feed during the night on the native sedge *Gahnia radula*, Thatch sawsedge. It draws two or three leaf blades together to make a small tent in which the caterpillar reverses up into before dawn to hide from predators during the day.



Gahnia radula grows in sandy heaths, coastal scrub and woodland, margins of swamps, lowland areas, mostly coastal and near coastal up to about 100m altitude in the NE, E coast and SE of Tasmania and the Furneaux Islands, SA, Vic and NSW. Its leaf blades grow from 40 to 150cm long and its flower stems 40 to 110cm long with flower heads up to 60cm long. The basal leaf sheaths are dull brown and the flower stem sheaths are cinnamon-brown. In the Knocklofty Reserve it grows in the sandy heathlands SE of the Forest Road carpark and *Chaostola skipper* butterfly and caterpillar presence has been noted there in the past. It

also grows along the SW bank of the Main Trail opposite the top of the Glover Track as illustrated. We will discuss a workshop with CoH.

3. *Salvator Rosa* parkland Area

The *Acacia melanoxylon*, Blackwood, wattles planted in the early days by the HCC are beginning to become very large and dense and Astrid believes they should be thinned to prevent them from overshadowing the understorey plants and stop the area changing from a pleasant open pathway area to a dark forest. Members wondered whether CoH still have a landscape architect who could be consulted to provide advice to CoH Management for action to thin these trees. Bruce offered to contact Andrew North of North Barker Associates who has been contracted on behalf of FoKL in the past for plant species surveys to ask if he can help us in this matter.

4. Gorse in 133 Forest Road

A follow up activity has been included in the program to check for any missed invasive weeds in this private property. Astrid will drop a note in the letter box ahead of the 2 June activity session to advise the owner of our impending visit.

4. Gorse on cliffs

It may be very expensive to clear the gorse from cliff faces such as Poets Road quarry area. It cost CoH about \$5,000 for drone work in the Giblin Street quarry. Spidertech to be investigated for work on the Poets Road quarry face where the gorse is getting very large.

The meeting, which was held up in Jenny and Greg Summers back garden to try to reduce CV-19 exposure, closed at about 8.30 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.

**KNOCKLOFTY RESERVE
Annual Report for 2021**

Knocklofty Reserve is looking good, and the people of Hobart seem to agree, as the visitor numbers for the year are up on last year. A total of about 150,000 visits registered on the CoH counters.

The Council installed a great number of 'way-signs' all over the reserve to help people on their way.

A management plan for Salvator Rosa Glen has been drawn up, so in September we did some planting in the glen:

25 *Dianella revoluta*,
25 *Lomandra longifolia*,
Rytidosperma caespitosum seeds were also scattered.

25 *Poa labillardierei*,
25 *Diplarrena moraea*,

There was some debate about the name of the rivulet gully below the Weerona Trail, but it turned out that it is Providence Valley Rivulet, gazetted in 1964.

WEED CONTROL

The winter was mild and windy, the spring wet and cool so three activities were cancelled due to wind and rain, and one due to Covid-19.

The last stand of old growth gorse was cleared from a private property at 133 Forest Rd, as it was spreading into the Reserve. We spent 130 hours on that project. We had six activities above and below the Weerona Trail clearing re-growth gorse, blackberries, forget-me-not, Euryops, elder berries, hawthorn, wild turnip, broom and thistles. In Salvator Rosa Glen we also cleared hemlock, European clematis, flowering blackcurrants and periwinkle. At the end of Forest Rd. we took out foxglove and stinking-iris.

TASNETWORKS

Our contract was renewed for another five years.

We did our two half yearly walk throughs under the power lines cutting out any small trees and shrubs that might affect the lines.

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS

We had two 'walk & talk' afternoons, one by Lauren Jakob on the results from her motion-camera studies of the fauna in the reserve; and one by Denis Abbott on birds. Denis mentioned that bird calls are just as important for identifications as sightings.

Tours were conducted in the area around the main fire trail for one group of university students interested in environment grant applications and their results, and two groups of primary school students interested in weeds.

A small hazard reduction burn was carried out near the lower entrance from Forest Rd.

We are in talks with CoH reserve management about a kind of 'rustic seating' near the Bandicoot Corridor.

There are a few problems with young people with access to adult tools/machinery constructing illegal bike/skateboard ramps and tracks in the Reserve. We notify the COH when this happens.

Optus did the maintenance of the buffer zone between their land and the reserve, it will be our turn to pay for it next year.

FINANCES

We have:

\$ 11,445.52 held by CoH

\$ 241.15 in CBA account

\$ 100.10 in petty cash

Total funds \$ 11,786.77

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Income

\$ 1,950 from TasNetworks for wayleave work

\$ 180 grant from Landcare Tasmania

Total \$ 2,130

Expenditure

\$ 329.70 on web charges, subscription, tools, administration and refreshments.

Surplus \$ 1,800.30

We received donations of quite a few packets of chocolate biscuits from grateful Primary School students as a 'thank you' for tours. Much appreciated at morning/afternoon coffee!

VOLUNTEERS

The 'on ground' time worked by our members as a group + individually came to 1,350 hours, add to that some 200 hours in preparation of and distributing of notices, first aid training, meetings and administration etc.

Rex unstintingly gives his time as our web master.

Bruce did the notices and put them up in the reserve.

Jim looked after the tools.

It is good to be part of a group with different skills and interests, so when we need information about boundaries, land ownership and names etc. someone is willing to look into it and inform the rest of us.

Friends of Knocklofty are a great group of really good people, and I'm glad to be part of them.

Astrid D. Wright,

Convener.

And all of us Friends of Knocklofty Bushcare Group say:

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

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FoKL Activity Calendar for 2022. 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 3 rd February	Meet at Forest Rd carpark for regrowth gorse weeding along the uphill side of Forest Rd. extension beyond the boom gate, KR23.
Thursday 17 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 20 th February	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, KR23.
Thursday 3 rd March	Meet at end of Bimbadeen Court for grass planting area thistle and gorse removal above the Weerona Trail, KR7.
Thursday 17 th March	Meet at Forest Rd carpark for erica weeding well above the Sandy Spit Track WNW from the Mt Stuart Track 2 nd U bend towards the Summit, KR12.
Sunday 20 th March	Meet at Forest Rd carpark for regrowth gorse weeding between the Eastern Wayleave, the Summit Loop Track and the Main Trail in and around all the sandstone borrow pits, KR25
Thursday 7 th April	Meet at Forest Rd carpark for regrowth gorse and erica weeding around the back of Trig Hill, KR24
Sunday 17 th April	Meet at Forest Rd carpark for regrowth gorse weeding on the NE side of the Mount Stuart Track between the U bends, KR20
Thursday 21 st April	Meet at Forest Rd carpark for regrowth gorse weeding downhill along Forest Rd. extension beyond the boom gate along the western side of the Ross Rivulet, KR22.
Thursday 5 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 15 th May	Meet at Forest Rd carpark for regrowth gorse and other invasive species weeding uphill from the Sandy Spit Track, KR18.
Thursday 19 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 2 nd June	Meet at Forest Rd carpark for follow up regrowth gorse and other invasive species weeding in the private property 133 Forest Road
Thursday 16 th June	Meet at Mount Stuart Lookout carpark for rubbish removal and regrowth gorse and other invasive species weeding, KR01
Sunday 19 th June	Meet at Knocklofty Terrace turning circle for regrowth gorse and other invasive species weeding up the Reservoir Tank Trail across to Optus fence, KR15
Thursday 7 th July	Meet at Forest Rd carpark for regrowth gorse removal below the Weerona Trail downhill from the Bandicoot Corridor, KR14.
Sunday 17 th July	Meet at Mount Stuart Lookout carpark for Euryops and gorse weeding E of the Fiona Allan Track, KR04
Thursday 21 st July	Meet at Bimbadeen Court carpark for gorse removal along the old fence line area uphill from the Weerona Trail, E of the Mount Stuart Track, KR13.

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FoKL Activity Calendar for 2022 Revision 0 [continued]. 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/weather requirements.	
Thursday 4 th August	Meet at Poets Road carpark for roving weeding for gorse and other invasive species up the NE side of the Glover Track, KR21.
Thursday 18 th August	Meet at the end of Bimbadeen Court for grass planting maintenance above the Weerona Trail, KR7.
Sunday 21 st August	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 and well beyond 193 Forest Road, KR22.
Thursday 1 st September	Meet at the end of Weerona Avenue for Euryops, Boneseed and gorse plus above the Weerona Trail, KR04 and KR7.
Thursday 15 th September	Meet at the end of Bimbadeen Court for forget-me-not and thistle removal in Providence Rivulet Gully, KR14.
Sunday 18 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 6 th October	Meet at the end of Bimbadeen Court for forget-me-not and thistle removal in Providence Rivulet Gully, KR14.
Sunday 16 th October	Meet at Forest Rd carpark for a plant identification walk around the Reserve with Members of the Australian Plants Society Tasmania Hobart Group led by FoKL's Flora officer, Bruce Champion. Followed by CoH Plant Give-away (if provided)
Thursday 20 th October	Meet at Forest Rd carpark for forget-me-not and thistle removal in Providence Rivulet Gully, KR14.
Thursday 3 rd 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 17 th 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 20 th November	Meet at Forest Rd carpark for activity yet to be determined.
Thursday 1 st 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

