

Hobart, January 2023

KNOCKLOFTY RESERVE Annual Report 2022

The winter was milder and a little drier than usual, and the spring and early summer colder and wetter. It seems these conditions were ideal for some native plants, and Knocklofty Reserve is burgeoning with poas - *Poa labillardierei*, and fireweed – *Senecio minimum*.

However, the same conditions were bad for the butterflies, and our walk/talk about the *Chaostola skipper* butterfly was cancelled, as there were no butterflies.

In the cleared area above the Weerona Trail, that we planted with 250 grasses in August 2020, the poas are thriving, but of the other four species less than 10% have survived. However, the small low native grasses that grew around the edges of the area are doing well and spreading downhill. We have spent quite a few hours keeping the thistles and seedling gorse down, to improve the grasses chances of taking over.

At the beginning of the year all volunteers were required to be double vaccinated against COVID, but now all restrictions have been lifted.

For some time, we have been worried about the proliferation of self-seeded blackwood – *Acacia melanoxylon* in Salvator Rosa Glen. It was beginning to reduce the biodiversity of the area.

Bruce and I met with Andrew North (from northbaker Ecosystem Services) for an assessment of the area. After a report and comments from Andrew, we submitted it to COH and then had a meeting with the relevant managers from COH Parks/Bushland division. A management plan for Salvator Rosa Glen was drawn up, and we were able to remove some of the young blackwood in September.

A rustic seating arrangement of three large logs were constructed next to the bandicoot corridor. Very pleasant!

WEED CONTROL

As usual we went through the reserve little by little removing the introduced plants.

The nine ha of land, that COH acquired four years ago on either side of the Weerona Trail, is still one of our main concerns. We had eight activities there, removing gorse seedlings, thistles, forget-me-nots, wild turnip, *Euryops*, elderberries, hawthorn and broom. By the Poets Rd. end of the Glover Track the hemlock is a concern, and foxglove at the end of Forest Rd. is also worrying

TASNETWORKS

The half-yearly check of the wayleave under the power lines were done, and we cut down any young trees that might interfere with power lines.

MICELLANEUS ITEMS

Melva Truchanas, who was one of the founding members of FoKL in 1991/92 died.

The annual plant-give-away was combined with a walk/talk by Peter Stronac from Landcare Tasmania, talking about pre-European land management and changing landscape.

Tours were conducted for Mt. Stuart Primary School and Tasmania university.

There was a small hazard reduction burn between Salvator Rosa Glen and the main reserve.

There was no 'Volunteer Recognition' in the Town Hall this year, but a small video production with the Mayor Anna Reynolds and a few volunteer groups, FoKL were one of them.

Every year the council gives us a special morning tea as a Christmas present. Ours were a lovely picnic by the table/bench next to the Forest Rd. car park, catered for by Sonya from the COH bushcare unit.

FINANCES

We have

\$ 12,395.52 held by COH
\$ 621.24 in CBA account
\$ 42.95 in petty cash
Total funds \$13,059,71

Income

\$ 1950 from TasNetworks for wayleave work
\$ 150 grant from Landcare Tasmania
\$ 50 donation from Anne-Lise Bard
\$ 30 re-imbursment from COH for subscription to Landcare Tasmania.
\$ 0.08 interests
Total \$ 2,180,08

Expenditure

\$907.15 on tools, web charges, refreshments, subscriptions and notices production.

Surplus \$ 1272,93

VOLUNTEERS

The Thursday's activities are very well attended with 12-16 members every time.
The Sundays are not so popular with 4-5 people, and most of them Thursday regulars.
The 'on ground' time worked by our members as a group + individually came to 1235 hours.
Add to that 200 hours in preparation and posting of notices, meetings, first aid training, web page management and administration.

Rex is our trusted volunteer web master.

Bruce does the notices.

Tony is the new 'tools keeper'.

This year it was the Thursday people who carried Friends of Knocklofty, they are a really, really good group, and I enjoy working with them very much.

Astrid D. Wright,
Convenor.

