

Hobart, January 2024

KNOCKLOFTY RESERVE

Annual Report 2023

The winter of 2023 was again mild and dry, the spring cool and dry, and the first month of summer also cool and dry. It follows that Knocklofty Reserve is seriously dry.

Prof David Bowman, from UTAS 'Fire Centre', obtained a government grant to look into the feasibility of local community groups' practicable involvement in the reduction of fire hazards in their areas of activities. The research project is called: 'Gardening with Fire'. He asked if FoKL would be part of this project. We said yes, and in August we met with him, Meagan Porter, project manager, also from UTAS Fire Centre, and two representatives from CoH Fire and Biodiversity dept. The meeting seemed positive. In September Rodney and I had a walk and talk in the reserve with Meagan, where we looked at individual and very small sites for the 'gardening with fire', and discussed what training and equipment we would need. However, since then the concern, fear and resistance from relevant authorities have been strong. We are waiting to see what will happen.

To prevent erosion of the upper slope at the northern end of the Weerona Trail, the council paid a contractor to plant 800 grasses and sedges. They are in individual cardboard guards, and many meters of weed matting is hanging over the edge. It is interesting to see, that the plants that survive, are the same as survived from the planting we did in 2020 further along the trail. Only Poas and Lomandras seem to make it.

WEED CONTROL

It turned out the Cyperus we were worried about at the beginning of the year in Salvator Rosa Glen is an endemic plant: *Cyperus Lucidus*, identified by Matthew Baker from the Herbarium. A plant not often seen in southern Tasmania.

Because of the dry weather the weeds are less prolific, though the forget-me-nots, thistles and elderberries are still going strong in the gully of Providence Valley Rivulet. The Euryops that flourished in the reserve above Bimbadeen Crt. are nearly gone, apart from a few on the steep banks of the Weerona Trail. We still try to sweep through all of the reserve once a year, and remove any gorse, broom, hawthorn, bone seed, Spanish heath, blackberries foxglove, wild turnip and hemlock and any garden plants coming in from neighbouring gardens.

We cleared the 'right-of-way between Salvator Rosa Glen and Corby Ave.

We are looking into the possibility of paying professional people to clear the cliff faces of the quarries near the Glower Track and Providence Valley Rivulet.

TASNETWORKS

In July we met with officers from TasNetworks and their contractor and Sonya Stallbaum our council liaison. The network people were very happy with our work controlling the larger woody vegetation on the wayleave easement under the power lines. We went to the top of Knocklofty, and it was agreed the *Pomaderris pilifera* could stay, but we should keep an eye on their height and density. The contractor was amazed at the work we do without power tools (not allowed). The same delegation came to meet all our workers in November and the contractor donated four new, expensive, very sharp handsaws with fitted holsters and protective safety gloves. All very welcome additions to our supply of gear.

MICELLANEUS ITEMS

The fence around Janets Pond seems to have outlived its purpose, as the ecosystem in and around the pond and wider area has changed over 23 years. We are talking with the council about the eventual removal.

An extensive, dangerous and illegal mountain bike track was noticed on the northern side of the Glover Track, it was it was attended to by the council

The weather was really unpleasant the day of the Sunday plant-give-away, and few people turned up, however Bruce's flora walk and talk went ahead.

The constructions of 'tee pees' around the base of trees appear more frequently and is causing concern. They would be very detrimental to the trees in the event of fire. It is good that children and young teenagers enjoy the reserve, but it would be appreciated if they dismantled the constructions after play.

David Obendorf did a 'tell and show' about Tasmanian fauna to Lindisfarne Scout Group's Joeys.

FINANCES

We have

\$ 10,345.52 held by CoH
\$ 4,347.90 in our CBA account
\$ 83,25 in petty cash

Total funds \$ 14,776.67

Income

\$ 1,950.00 from TasNetworks
\$ 120.00 grant from Landcare Tasmania
\$ 6.04 interest from CBA

Total \$ 2,076.04

Expenditure

\$ 359,70 for web charges, tools, refreshment and notices production.

Surplus \$ 1716.34

VOLUNTEERS

The activities on Thursdays are very well attended, most of the members being active retired people, who prefer a Thursday morning's work in the bush and a coffee and chat after. We have 12 – 14 members on a regular basis. The Sunday activities are less popular, with 4 – 7 people, and most of them Thursday regulars. The 'on ground' time worked by our members + individuals came to 1047 hours. Add to that 200 hours in preparation and posting of notices, posters, meetings, weed mapping, web page management and administration. Weed mapping by Greg, Rodney, Jeff, Stephen, Rob and me.

Rodney helped with 'Gardening with Fire'.

Rex still likes to follow our group's work and maintains the web page.

Bruce is coaching Sally to take over the notices and be part of the program calendar management.

Tony keeps and maintains the tools and make sure they are there every time.

I enjoy working with everybody, and couldn't be the convenor without them.

Astrid D. Wright

Convenor.