

MINUTES OF FRIENDS OF KNOCKLOFTY PLANNING MEETING 17 January 2024

Present: Astrid Wright (*in the chair*), Jim Anderson, Rodney Arnold, Kathy Burton, Ali Cummins, Geoff Dunn, Anne Hughes, Sonya Stallbaum, Greg Summers, Sally Wayte and Bruce Champion (*Minutes secretary*).

Apology: Rob Giblin, Tony James, Heidi Krajewsky, Stephen Mattingley and Hermoine Powell-James.

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 2024

Office	2024
Convenor	Astrid Wright (happy to do again provided the support from the core members is maintained). Will possibly be looking for a replacement this year or next.
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 Rod Arnold Greg Summers	As all are due, retrainings will be required this year and Astrid believes CoH will be scheduling them soon. More volunteer supervisors are required and they will need Senior First Aid Training, so put you hand up now!
Flora Officer	Bruce Champion
Fauna Officer	David Obendorf
Web Master	Rex Bunn

3. Issues arising from the Convenor's Report

The report was accepted as presented without any amendments see pages 4 and 5.

- 3.1 Gorse getting bad in some private properties along the Weerona Trail, especially in Councillor Kelley's property. Astrid to provide details to Sonya who will contact Councillor Kelly.
- 3.2 Astrid to chase up the Cliff face gorse removal person..
- 3.3 Astrid is still concerned that she has not been given clear approval or otherwise to remove the fence around Janet's pond.
- 3.4 This year it is FoKL's turn to arrange for weed removal within Optus's fenced area along the boundary with the Reserve. Astrid and Greg to contact Optus after inspecting the area inside the boundary fence, especially along the Providence Gully side.

4. Activity Calendar

FoKL's Activity Calendar 2024 Rev. 0 was issued to Members and discussed. Sonya advised that she and her supervisor had discussed the low numbers of FoKL Sunday Activity attendees, most of whom are Thursday attendees. They suggested that FoKL could cancel our Sunday activities and this would allow CoH to provide assistance to a new Lenah Valley Group for their Sunday activities. Attendees at this meeting were in favour of this action, so the Sunday activities in the draft calendar will be deleted if unnecessary or moved to an "activity to be determined on the day" date. As the February activity is already advertised in Bandicoot Times, it will remain as per the draft calendar.

It was agreed that FoKL should contact all CoH Councillors re the sale of 193 Forest Road and make a case for CoH to purchase it. Bruce and Sandra will prepare a draft letter for Astrid to sign on behalf of FoKL Members

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The revised calendar is included in these minutes, pages 5 and 6, and the **KR** management areas referred to in the Program are shown on the Knocklofty Reserve map on page 7.

5. Finances

The finances are covered in the Convenors Report.

6. Future Officers

Astrid reminded the Group that she would like to relinquish the position of Convenor at the end of 2024 if not before. She also ask if someone can take over the picnic basket for morning teas as soon as possible. So, if there are FoKL Members who can take on the Convenor role and the responsibility for the morning teas, they should discuss it with Astrid.

Bruce advised that he has health issues with his hands and feet and would like to cease preparing the activity calendar and being the minute's secretary. He can pass on the files to another keyboard warrior and can show them how the tasks are performed. He thanks Sally for taking over the entrance Activity notices work and for her joining him to prepare the Activity Calendar with Astrid.

Please contact Bruce on 0408 146 041 if you can take on the Minutes Secretary work.

He also advised that he will be taking leave of FoKL activities while he is receiving treatment for his health issues, possibly for the whole of 2024. He would like to remain a member until otherwise advised.

OTHER BUSINESS

7. More Volunteer Supervisors Required

It would be good to have a couple of more volunteer supervisors in the core group. This involves learning the responsibilities and doing the training for a Senior First Aid Certificate, for which the CoH pays. Please contact Astrid if you are interested.

8. Native Animal Survey

As advised last year, FoKL own 10 very large animal traps (stored under Bruce's house), plus 10 large and 10 small animal traps (stored at Astrid's house). These were purchased when David Obendorf organised the group to conduct trapping in the Reserve for Bandicoots and other native animals in 2003 & 4. He would like to have another survey of the Reserve done this year so that we know what has happened to our native animal population over 20 years. Due to the difficulty in obtaining permission for a lay person to do live animal trapping now, he suggested FoKL talk to UTAS try to get an Honours student to try to obtain permission and if successful he is prepared to mentor the student.

Sonya tried several times to contact Professor Mena Jones last year but didn't hear back. She will try again.

The meeting, which was held again in Jenny and Greg Summer's home, 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.

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KNOCKLOFTY RESERVE

Hobart, January 2024

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 metres 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 lucidius*, 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.

MISCELLANEOUS 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.

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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 \$ 1,716.34

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.

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 2024. Revision 0 1st and 3rd Thursdays [9 to 11.30 am], 3rd Sundays if applicable [2-4.30 pm]. Please note this is only a guide, activities may change to suit Reserve/weather requirements	
Thursday 1 st February	Meet at Poets Rd. carpark for hemlock and regrowth gorse weeding along both sides of the Glover Track especially along the Salvator Rosa Rivulet, KR20c and KR21.
Thursday 15 th February	Meet at end of Bimbadeen Court for weeding Forget-me-not and other invasive plants in the Providence Gully and quarry, KR14
Sunday 18 th February	Meet at Forest Rd carpark for weeding Forget-me-not, regrowth gorse and other woody weeds in the small quarries and borrow pits along the extension of Forest Road and all around trig hill, KR24
Thursday 7 th March	Meet at end of Bimbadeen Court for thistle and gorse removal in the grass planting area above the Weerona Trail, KR7.
Sunday 17 th March	No activity
Thursday 21 st March	Meet at Forest Rd carpark for weeding regrowth gorse and other woody weeds toward the western end of the extension of Forest Road, KR22
Thursday 4 th April	Meet at Forest Rd carpark for gorse weeding above the Sandy Spit Track on both sides up Salvator Rosa Glen, KR18
Thursday 18 th April	Meet at Forest Rd carpark for regrowth weeding gorse and other woody weeds along Forest Road from 133 Forest Road to the carpark and across to the Reserve boundary fence down hill from the Main trail, KR26
Sunday 21 st April	No activity
Thursday 2 nd May	Meet at the Mt Stuart carpark for walking to wayleave maintenance from the Lenah Valley end up to the summit and for Erica weeding on the western slope especially at UTM 523795E - 5252273N in KR10.
Thursday 16 th May	Meet at the Forest Road carpark for wayleave maintenance from the carpark up to the summit and down the southern wayleave.
Sunday 19 th May	No activity
Thursday 6 th June	Meet at Forest Rd carpark for weeding regrowth gorse and other invasive species uphill from the Sandy Spit Track, KR18.
Sunday 16 th June	No activity
Thursday 20 th June	Meet at Knocklofty Terrace carpark for roving weeding gorse and other woody weeds up to the Reflecting Pond and beyond, KR 15.
Thursday 4 th July	Meet at Forest Rd carpark for roving gorse weeding below Bandicoot Corridor, KR 20b.

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Thursday 18 th July	Meet at Bimbadeen Court carpark for gorse removal along the old fence line area uphill from the Weerona Trail, east of the Mount Stuart Track, KR13.
Sunday 21 st July	No activity

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<p style="text-align: center;">FoKL Activity Calendar for 2024 Revision 0 [continued].</p> <p style="text-align: center;">1st and 3rd Thursdays [9 to 11.30 am], 3rd Sunday if applicable [2-4.30 pm].</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Please note this is only a guide, activities may change to suit Reserve/weather requirements</p>	
Thursday 1 st 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 15 th August If CoH has bought the property, or	Meet at Forest Rd carpark for follow up regrowth gorse and other invasive species weeding in the old private property 193 Forest Road now part of the Reserve, KR23
Or Thursday 15 th August	Meet at Forest Rd carpark for follow up regrowth gorse and other invasive species weeding beyond the private property 193 Forest Road, KR22
Sunday 18 th August	No activity
Thursday 5 th September If CoH has bought the property,	Meet at Forest Rd carpark for follow up regrowth gorse and other invasive species weeding in the old private property 193 Forest Road now part of the Reserve, KR23
Or Thursday 5 th September	Meet at Forest Rd carpark for follow up regrowth gorse and other invasive species weeding up hill along the Forest Road extension of beyond the bollards to 193 Forest Road, KR23
Sunday 15 th September	No activity
Thursday 19 th September	Meet at the end of Bimbadeen Court for forget-me-not and thistle removal in Providence Rivulet Gully, KR14.
Thursday 3 rd October	Meet at the end of Bimbadeen Court for forget-me-not and thistle removal in Providence Rivulet Gully, KR14.
Thursday 17 th October	Meet at Forest Rd carpark for an activity to be determine on the day. Or with CoH approval, removing small wattles (<i>Acacia dealbata</i>) along the uphill side of the Sandy Spit Track, KR18
Sunday 20 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 7 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.
Sunday 17 th November	No activity
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.

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Thursday 5 th December	Meet at Forest Rd carpark for weeding Forget-me not, gorse and other woody weeds along the uphill side of the Weerona Trail beyond the Bandicoot Corridor, KR13
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FRIENDS OF KNOCKLOFTY 2021 map with KR areas tracks & trails

