

2015

November 2015 News

The OPEN DAY went really well.

The weather was lovely and the activities well attended.

Thanks to Sally and Jeff, who ran the popular Orienteering.

The Lansdowne Primary School students, who ran the 'Land to Sea' walk.

The COH people, who ran the 'Adventure' activity for children.

Kathryn and Caroline, who ran the history gathering.

The catering had fine sandwiches.

And Lisa did a tremendous job of organising it all, and seeing to the smooth running of the event.

It looks as if we are again doing the maintenance of the wayleave under the power lines for Tasnetworks

October 2015 News

Before our activity early this month, we had consultation with the COH fire officer re the burn-off of KR 26,

the area between Forest Rd. and Forest Rd. car park.

It was good, - we all agreed which area could be burnt, and which should be left alone.

Our 'Seniors Day' had to be cancelled, as it was a 'total fire ban' day, and we are not allowed in the reserve on those days.

So the trimming of poa by Janets Pond, we should have done with the seniors, was done on the 'plant-give-away' day.

Colourful notices about the plant-give-away at the entrances to the reserve, and information on the internet is much more effective than letterboxing. It is good that Lisa Cawthen is so 'on the ball' with all this.

september 2015 News

Thank you to the people who answered with regard to the COH Bush Care fortnightly update.

I'll forward the e-mail, as there was a considerable interest.

We had a really interesting talk by Dr Kevin Bonham on the Ammonite Snail.

It's so tiny it can fit into the 'eye of a domino brick'. Kevin showed us an empty shell, the live ones are very hard to find. We also walked over to where he found the most recent snail. It was agreed by all, we will stay away from that area, and if there are some introduced weeds, so be it. It's more important to leave the habitat undisturbed.

There are two special activities in October:

1. During 'Senior Week' we are inviting people to join us in a bush care day.

2. The Plant-Giveaway.

This year there will be no letterboxing , but colourful signs by the reserve entrances' noticeboards.

August 2015 News

We had three very productive activities this month, ranging from Forest Rd. to Mt. Stuart. Removing gorse, broom, bone seed and Euryops.

Robyn, Jim, Bruce and I had a very interesting meeting with Suzanne Smythe, local historian. She showed us, where her research indicates the Pigeon House would have been. She has a lot of interesting information on all the quarries and the buildings in Hobart that has sand stone from Knocklofty.

Dr. Kevin Bonham has agreed to tell us about the rare Ammonite Snail.

July 2015 News

Thanks to the people who participated in the July activities.

An extra big thank you to Bruce and Jim for looking after things while I was away. It seems there is some problem from TasNetworks' side with regard to FoKL maintaining the wayleave.

We have done this work efficient and well for 9 years, and an open heathland has developed under the lines.

TasNetworks is very satisfied with our effort, however, now there seems to be some legal problems.

We will continue to talk with them.

It would be a great pity if the area reverted to the slashed and weed infected eyesore it used to be..

June 2015 News

In spite of a little rain, the soil is dry, and the pressure on the flora and fauna is obvious.

The month's activities went well. We had a good look at the weed in KR23.

HCC would like a 'Site Plan' for each bushcare group's area of interest, and Bruce volunteered to do ours.

He has spent a considerable amount of time on it, with some input from the core group.

That's what makes FoKL such a pleasant group. Everyone is willing to share the load.

We expect the plan will go on the web site eventually.

Both Greg and I will be away in July, but Bruce and Jim will look after things.

NEWSFLASH!

The Friends of Knocklofty were asked about preparing a Site Plan for the Reserve and developed a comprehensive Plan that has become:

History of FoKL

Future direction

How the group is run

Manual for weeding

Manual for planting

Down load a .pdf of the Plan and happy reading.

We love our Knocklofty Reserve!

May 2015 News

Our first activity of the month was cancelled due to inclement weather. But the two following , on the eastern slope of Knocklofty, were well attended.

Two classes of grade II students from Lansdowne Crs. Primary School had guided walks in the reserve, more or less following their Land to Sea Virtual Trail. We were lucky with the weather, and it is a delight to see eager young people enjoying the area.

Optus has paid for 3 days work to clear re-growth on the buffer Zone between the reserve and their land.

Ald. Anna Reynolds is suggesting an Open Day/Historic Day for the reserve in spring. It could be quite interesting and we support it.

April 2015 News

The first activity in April was cancelled due to poor weather. However, we had arranged to meet with Ald. Reynolds afterwards, and this meeting still went ahead with the Alderwoman, Rob M. and Lisa C. from HCC, and Greg S. , Jim A. and me from FoKL.

Ald. Reynolds is a resident of West Hobart and interested in the reserve. She has some ideas about the area next to the big water tank, and HCC bushcare unit is coming up with some possibilities.

We had another meeting with staff from the same unit with regard to planning and

communication, very productive.

Several plans are in preparation for the reserve covering fire, threatened flora, signage and the Pigeon House site

We were told there is a rare snail <http://www.threatenedspecieslink.tas.gov.au/ammunite-snail> , and were asked to be very careful of it's habitat. We intend to keep away from that habitat.

Bruce C. represented us and participated with HCC in a UTAS environmental lecture/ tutorial of fire management in the reserve.

March 2015 News

The first activity in March was checking on the planting we did last year with Lansdowne Cres. Primary students.

It was pleasing to see how many plants had survived the summer, and not much weed around.

We are very efficient with the wayleave maintenance now.

Half a team starting at either end of the power lines and meeting on top for a 'cuppa'.

On Saturday evening Lisa Cawthen from HCC gave us a very interesting talk on Tasmanian microbats.

Though we had sound detectors and a computer screen/sound screen with us we only heard and saw a few bats. Lisa said January and February are better month for bat spotting.

February 2015 News

The year's first activities have gone well.

We returned to the area at the end of Forest Rd. where we and Australian Conservation Volunteers cleared old growth gorse in 2013.

It is interesting to see how much the cut gorse have 'mulched' down, and though it has been a good summer for new gorse and blackberry seedlings, the endemic plants are also growing very well. So if we can keep the introduced weeds down, the reserve recovers quite fine on its own.

This morning we saw many tiny orchids, Margaret P. said they were related to the spider orchids

This month Bruce C. will represent us when the next Aurora contract is negotiated, and Jim A and Greg have offered to attend the Cascade Strategic Land Review.

Lisa Cawthen, HCC Bushcare Co-ordinator (who is an expert on Tasmanian bats) has offered to do a 'bat walk' with us in the reserve.

This, I think, will be very interesting, and I, for one, am looking forward to it.

See program for details.