

KNOCKLOFTY RESERVE

Annual Report 2024

The reserve is more popular than ever with 'multi use' tracks, and dogs allowed on leads; there are extensive track markings and easy access from Mt. Stuart along the Weerona Trail. The access from Knocklofty Tce. was upgrade as well as from the Forest Rd. car park. This is shown by the increasing visitor numbers: see attached e-mail.

The autumn was warm and dry, the winter mild and light with rain, and the spring and early summer cool, windy and showery. This seems to suit poas, Lomandra and fire weed as these appear more dominant as ground cover. The bracken is slow to recover after the dry summer, and though the short, small grasses are green, the ground litter of leaves, bark and dead wood is crackling dry.

The 'Gardening with Fire' project FoKL was asked to participate in by UTAS Fire Centre did not eventuate. The CoH and Tas. Fire Dept. were not in favour of the proposal.

WEED CONTROL

The endemic Cyperus Lucidus is now spreading down the rivulet in Salvator Rosa Glen.

We have removed all the old growths gorse in the reserve, and the areas we mainly spend time on now are near the urban fringe. Here we try to sweep through once a year, removing gorse, broom, bone seed, hawthorn, Spanish Heath, blackberries, wild turnip, hemlock, Euryops, thistles, forget-me-nots, foxglove, agapanthus, pittosporum, cotoneaster, Greater Mullen and arum lilies.

It was our turn to clear the boundary zone between the OPTUS compound and the reserve, and Greg, Rodney and I did this in February.

In June we contracted out to Dave James and his offsider the clearing of the quarry faces at the end of Poets Rd. and in Providence Valley Rivulet gully. It was done in three days. An excellent report followed from Dave James. He recommended a 'follow up' clearing in a couple of years.

We are looking at helping the South Hobart bush care group with clearing the right-of-way between the extension of Forest Rd. and Loudon St. South Hobart. We have worked there one morning and will go back in 2025.

TASNETWORKS

The usual maintenance of the wayleave under the power lines was carried out. We go through the wayleave every six months removing woody weeds and any tree saplings that might interfere with the lines. TasNetworks are satisfied with our work.

Our five-year contract finishes in October 2025, and the possible renewal will be discussed at our planning meeting in January 2025.

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS

The fence around Janets Pond was inspected by council employees and FoKL and after discussions was put in the 'too hard basket'. A big snake has been observed several times near the pond and seems to have made the area its territory. This year the plant-give-away was held on a Sunday morning, and Bruce conducted a 'flower walk'.

The early time slot seems to work better, and many people collected plants.

We had a collaborative activity with two people and their truck from the CoH's Fire and Biodiversity section. Small, stunted, crowded, half-dead acacias were removed to allow for a more open landscape and reduce the fuel load in the area above the Sandy Spit fire track.

Two people from Landcare Tasmania brought homemade cake for morning tea to celebrate their organisations 30th birthday. FoKL is older by two years.

FINANCES

We have

Balance at CoH	Jan. 2024	\$ 10,345.52
Deduct invoice from to contractor	July 2024	\$ 5,669.30
Balance	July 2024	\$ 4,676.22
Payment from TasNetworks	Nov. 2024	\$ 1,950.00
Balance at CoH	Dec. 2024	\$ 6,626.22
CBA account	- -	\$ 3,819.77
Petty cash	- -	\$ 252.70
Total funds	- -	\$ 10,668.69

Income	TasNetworks	Nov. 2024	\$ 1,950.00
	Interest	2024	\$ 71.87
Total Income			\$ 2,021.87

Less **Expenditure** on

Web charges, tools, refreshment, admin. costs \$ 430.55

SURPLUS \$ 1591.32

VOLUNTEERS

Thursday morning activities are most popular with FoKL, we have 12-16 members every time.

Sundays were mainly attended by 'Thursday people' who felt they had to, very few others turned up.

With consultation with CoH's bush care unit it was decided to drop the Sunday activities apart from the yearly Sunday plant-give-away. The bush care unit felt they owed us a day of CoH supervision, and Bushcare Team Leader Sonya Stallbaum attend once a month.

The total 'on ground' time came to 993 hours, this includes the hours worked by 'Working alone volunteers', we have six of those, add to that 200 hours for meetings, first aid training, preparing and posting notices, weed mapping, web page management and administration.

Bruce Champion our 'flora officer' was awarded the CoH's 'Bushcare Legend Golden Secateurs' award for 2024.

Our web manager Rex Bunn retired. Rex created our webpage with help from Bruce, and ran it without complaint for more than 15 years. A very big THANK YOU to Rex.

Tony James, our 'tool man' has offered to step in and take on the web manager role as well.

I'll step down as convenor at the annual planning meeting, and Virginia Watson has offered to take over.

(I'll still be organising the morning coffee!)

I could not have been convenor for so long without the tremendous support from the core group around me.

I THANK YOU ALL!

Astrid D. Wright

Convenor.

From: Claire Knowles <claire.knowles@hobartcity.com.au>

Sent: Monday, 6 January 2025 2:52 PM

To: Ian and Astrid <iawright@iprimus.com.au>; Sonya Stallbaum <sonya.stallbaum@hobartcity.com.au>

Subject: RE: Visitor numbers

Hi Astrid,

If it's not too late I have the following raw data recorded each quarter for 2024.

<i>Track counter location</i>	Summer 2024	Autumn 2024	Winter 2024	Spring 2024
Mt Stuart Track	6023	6508	6429	5711
Knocklofty Main Fire Trail 2	26994	31013	32790	21158
Weerona Fire Trail	18894	20990	20873	20676
Knocklofty Summit Track	5653	6493	6487	5938

When interpreting this data, you will need to factor in that it is 3 months and most people go in and out which doubles the count per person.

For example, for the Weerona Fire Trail 2024 counts -this is the total number of passes of the track counter over a 3-month period (assuming most people would go in and out, then this is about 115 people a day).

Kind Regards,

Claire Knowles

Bushcare Coordinator

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