

Bushcare Report for January 2020

In January the Friends of Belair National Park worked a total of 135.5 hours. Most time – 129.5 hours – was spent in VMU 16, along the area between Lodge Track and the Railway line. 16 hours was contributed by our Third Saturday Bushcare group, working to remove Erica from VMU 48.

Results of bushcare records for the 4th quarter – and therefore the full year 2019 – are in. Thank you to Frances Eltridge for her help with this task. The total hours we worked in the 4th quarter were 570, and for all of 2019 we worked 2086 hours.

I can report that we have now completed the workload of visiting all the sites previously worked by the Friends in the last two-year period. With the aim of reviewing these sites to ensure that our time and efforts are used as effectively as possible, we have had a Bushcare Planning meeting. In this we are grateful to have the very knowledgeable assistance of Greening Australia's James McGregor. With his help we now have maps of the areas of the park which have significant biodiversity. These high priority areas, which to a large degree are sites previously worked by the Friends, we plan to visit and maintain at least once every two years. Some important sites have been added, and some sites may not remain on our list as their priority is low.

A further meeting will decide a timing schedule, with some flexibility if required to effectively target weeds before their seeding time. If we can complete a full circuit of our nominated sites within the two-year period, there will be scope to take on new areas in priority order.

Barb Raine

Bushcare Coordinator

31 January 2020