

## FoBNP Bushcare Report for July 2022

In July the Friends of Belair National Park have contributed 216 hours of bushcare.

As we have completed our two-year cycle in 14 months, it was decided to spend some time in other areas before recommencing the cycle as planned in 2020. We have worked in some new areas and revisited some sites that were left off our plan when the new system was devised.

We worked 50 hours in the old Golf Course which has been recently returned to the National Park, to help this area return to natural bush. At this stage we have simply removed Boneseed, some of which was quite large after being neglected for so long. We hope to have limited its spread, within the old Golf Course and throughout adjoining park land.

We have tackled some of the rampant Gorse which was growing along the Valley Loop Walking Track, adjacent to the area planted out by the Blackwood Kindergarten as a project to help the Southern Brown bandicoot. As this planting develops, we hope to remove the invasive gorse bit by bit as native vegetation gradually replaces this unpleasant prickly weed, providing better habitat for bandicoots. This month the Kindergarten children will be planting another 55 good natives in the area we have cleared. The children themselves contribute funds to buy the plants through their "money tree". They bring coins earned through doing jobs at home, and are enthusiastic about helping our wildlife.

Another 24 hours work was added by the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday group, who revisited the site on VMU 24/25 where the lovely Blue beard orchid (*Pheladenia deformis*) grows near the northern end of Tilti Track. This is a more difficult site for our regular bushcarers to reach in our usual 2 hour sessions, and this contribution is very welcome.

We have also been working very hard on VMU 28. While the Baulderstone family, who adopt this block, have worked so hard and achieved great things on the uphill side, adjoining Upper Sturt Road, they were glad to have help with broom on the lower section of the block. 96 hours of bushcare was used here, and we hope the Heathfield Highschool students who are visiting in September and October will also help with this big task.

Thank you to all those who helped planting a demonstration garden on VMU 38, near the Waverley Gate 11. Under guidance from Katja Hogendoorn from Adelaide University we put in 70 plants *Daviesia leptophylla* and *ulicifolia*, and *Indigofera australis*, to provide a food source for the threatened Golden Pea Bee, and encourage locals to do the same. Another 26 hours bushcare was contributed there.

Thankyou too to Frances Eltridge, who has expertly collated our hours for the second Quarter of 2022. The records confirm 854 hours were spent on bushcare in BNP (this includes individual and adopt-a-block hours). A great effort. Frances is also helping us to develop a more efficient method of recording hours and work done, which is so much appreciated.

We have three new regular bushcarers this month: Jim Button, Ian Rhodes, and Sally Anne Crawford. Welcome to these people! And thank you to all our great bushcarers!

Barb Raine, Craig Baulderstone, Catherine Miles, Peter Raine

5<sup>th</sup> August 2022