

FoBNP Bushcare Report for March 2022

In March 2022 the Friends of Belair National Park worked 291 hours.

- VMU 23 – 52 hours
- VMU 29 – 32 hours
- VMU 32 – 6 hours
- VMU 33 – 132 hours
- VMU 34 - 46 hours
- VMU 48 – 23 hours

A group of Mercedes College students are giving community service to the Park over 4 weeks, working on Monday afternoons. The work of these keen, strong year 10 and 11 young men has cleared a substantial area of Montpellier broom in VMU 23.

We completed work removing mainly Boneseed and Montpellier broom in VMU 29.

We spent 6 hours only in VMU 32 before a prescribed burn there.

We spent 132 hours in VMU 33. This block, which is adopted by Ian Graham, is very large and contains some beautiful bushland. A huge amount of work has already been done by Ian. He requested some help, which we were happy to give, removing mainly young Erica which has emerged from the seed bank since Ian did all the hard work. He spent many hours removing some of the very large Erica bushes which had invaded the site. Thank you to Ian for all the hard work you have done – the good native bushland in this block is a credit to you!

We have now moved on to work in VMU 34, along Saddle Hill Road. Bevin Scholz has already done much work on the *Pterostylis cucullata* area here – thank you Bevin! There has also been some contractor work done on the site, much of which is very weedy with Broom, Hawthorn, Ivy, Pittosporum, Elm and Ash. This is a project which will take years, and we will continue to do what we can in some sections of this VMU. There are some beautiful plants here like *Glycine rubiginosa* (Twining Glycine) which are well worth protecting, including the Greenhood orchids.

As daylight saving ends this weekend, so, for the time being, ends the evening sessions of bushcare. Thankyou to Catherine who has so ably introduced and lead these sessions. This initiative has shown some new people the joy of working in the bush, helping our environment, and contributed over February and March another 46 hours of effective work in the lovely Stringy-bark bush in VMU 48.

Our numbers attending Bushcare sessions have increased substantially, and the hours contributed are remarkable – probably record-breaking! Thanks to all those who come along to help us and our beautiful Park.

Bushcare Coordinators:

- Craig Boulderstone
- Catherine Miles
- Barb Raine
- Peter Raine

1st April 2022



The group of Mercedes College Students on 28 March 2022 in VMU 23.