

## Bushcare Report for May 2022

In May the Friends of Belair National Park have worked 141 hours.

VMUs:

- 9 - 38 hrs
- 36 – 2 hrs
- 41 – 1 hr
- 43 – 40 hrs
- 44 – 30 hrs
- 48 – 26 hrs
- 52 – 4 hrs

We have only a small section of VMU 52 to finish to complete our planned 2-year schedule.

Since the end of May 2021 the bushcarers have covered the areas in our 2020 plan that required attention at least once every two years – the parts of BNP deemed the most important because of their bio-diversity. This achievement exceeds expectations, as the area covers about a third of the Park.

Over the last year, the VMU in which the most hours were spent was VMU 34, 168 hours. Contract work has been done here too, in an area important for *Pterostylis cucullata*, but invaded with a lot of Montpellier Broom and Hawthorn. The next highest number of hours were spent in VMU 33 (156 hours), then VMU's 12 and 17, 132 hours each. Huge piles of *Monadenia* were removed from VMU 12 on a return visit to this lovely VMU, so well worth looking after!

Other VMUs to receive many hours of work were 23, 27 and 16.

I do need to add that a couple of VMUs were missed, because they were either planned for prescribed burns, or burnt prior to our scheduled visit, which meant they were off the list for this round.

As our quota was covered so well within schedule, our plan now is to take on some more areas. There is no point revisiting too soon before weeds have had time to become obvious. At a recent planning meeting the coordinators decided for now to spend some time on other areas previously worked but not included in the plan of 2020, i.e. the Railway Dam area (so much work has been done here!), areas where Ross Handsaker has treated olives, Tim Fuhlbohm's planting sites, and VMU 21, Yungara Track and through the gate to some of the golf course.

Two important planting events are planned for the near future. Revegetating the ex-golf course is scheduled for Sunday June 26<sup>th</sup> 10am to 12md. The Belair National Park Action group is collaborating with us for this event. And as part of Katja Hogendoorn's "Bringing the Golden Pea Bee back to the 'burbs" project we will be planting 70 *Daviesia leptophylla* (Slender-leaved Bitter-pea), *Daviesia ulicifolia* (Gorse Bitter-pea) and *Indigofera australis* (Austral indigo), which are the favoured food source for this little endangered native bee. Timing for this event is still to be confirmed. We do hope as many of you as possible will be able to help us at these events.

Our numbers have increased, with 62 active bushcarers now on our books. This has been helped by Catherine's initiative of introducing daylight-saving time fortnightly evening sessions. We have also gained many hours with school students working with us for community service including Mercedes College and TAFE students. There is now the possibility of VMU 9 being adopted by Urrbrae TAFE, facilitating careful mapping and regular visits for bushcare and learning by students. The numbers attending the third Saturday group have increased with up to 20 coming to the bushcare sessions, with many enthusiastic young people enjoying their time working in the bush.

Last Tuesday we had our Annual Bushcarers Meeting, which had been postponed for 2 years due to COVID. Our Liaison Ranger Brent Loes gave us a full report on current issues and activities planned for the Park in coming months. As usual First-aid kits were checked and updated, and a stocktake of tools commenced. Thank you to all who came along.

Many thanks to Craig, Catherine and Pete for sharing the coordinator role, and many thanks especially to all bushcarers for your continuing support!

Bushcare Coordinators Barb Raine, Catherine Miles, Craig Boulderstone and Pete Raine

3<sup>rd</sup> June 2022