

BUSHCARE REPORT FOR OCTOBER 2020

In October the Friends of Belair volunteers contributed 204.5 hours of bushcare. One session was missed due to rain.

Although we are still following the guidelines set out in the beginning of the year and working in VMUs in numerical order, there was some variety as issues arose, and some special tasks were undertaken by some members of the group. We were given 44 plants considered surplus to requirements by Glenthorne National Park, and these were planted near the Park entrance at Ranger Brent Lores direction (8 hours spent there). It is late in the season to be planting with summer approaching, but Brent, who occupies Western Lodge located near the chosen site, has agreed to see that these plants are kept watered through the hot weather. This planting of local native flowering plants will improve the aesthetic for visitors entering the Park.

Another “gardening” type task some of us undertook was to weed and plant in the small plot in front of the Volunteer Centre. The 4 hours spent there improved the appearance of our centre. A plaque has been placed in this garden recently acknowledging Dr Ralph Foster, who volunteered for 22 years with the Friends of Belair National Park. He made a huge contribution to the Significant Trees Register project, which remains an enduring legacy to the group. The current tenant of the adjoining building to the Volunteer Centre has kindly offered to see that this small garden is kept watered through summer.

While most of the group undertook hard work weeding in VMUs 34 and 38, Aileen, Helen, Mary, Jenny and Julie tackled removing Monadenia (the South African weed orchid) from VMU 9A. Thankyou for spending time on this “on your knees” task ladies! The third Saturday group tackled the same difficult task in VMU 12, and we are also grateful that the Trees for Life bushcare workshop students also removed a lot of Monadenia in this VMU as part of their practical session.

However, the main work for the group through October has been removing boneseed and broom from the important orchid site in VMU 34, on the steep uphill side of Saddle Hill Road, (50 hours work), and working at removing thistles and South African daisy from VMU 38, the recent prescribed burn site adjacent to Sheoak Road (108 hours work and still going!)

Six TAFE students have joined our regular Working Bees and we welcome them. Anton, Chloe, Ky, George, Jack and Candice come whenever their work commitments allow, making a valuable contribution to our group. We also warmly welcome new volunteer Julie, and we hope all of you will continue to enjoy being in beautiful Belair National Park as much as we do. Many thanks to all our Volunteers!

Barb Raine

Bushcare Coordinator

4 November 2020