

Bushcare Report for the AGM on February 2nd 2019

In December 2018 the total hours were 69 hours. 4 sessions were cancelled due to hot weather and 1 session due to rain.

In January 2019 the weather has been very much against us, with 7 sessions cancelled due to hot days and Total Fire Bans. Attendance was understandably down. We have worked only a total of 33 hours.

The hours for the year are in and likewise – can we blame climate change for more extreme weather? – the hours are down on last year. However, thank you to all our wonderful hard-working volunteers, we have contributed 2607 hours bushcare to Belair National Park.

The VMU which clocked up the most hours was VMU 19, where Ross and Spencer have put in many dedicated hours treating Olives – 476 to be precise. The group worked extensively in VMU 31, 283 hours there, 208 hours in VMU 27, and 169 hours in VMU 41 – to give you just the top three.

I can give more details on request.

I would like to acknowledge the many volunteer hours contributed by Tim Fuhlbohm, one of the Parks' Fire Management Team. Tim has, as well as his paid work within Belair, worked tirelessly as a volunteer in certain riparian areas, and he is funding more work there as a legacy. The committee has decided to add these special areas to our worked-in sites so that followup work by FoBNP continues to be done, and we have added them to our map. I am sure we all agree that this is very worthwhile! We have also applied for a grant to fund further work at some of these sites. Tim has also made a substantial donation of the chemicals required to continue the restoration work in these areas, and is himself purchasing plants for the site behind the Volunteer Centre, Tarnma Creek, and for some of the Bush Buddies sites. We are very grateful for this amazing contribution. Tim knows a great deal about native plants and is a great source of information about rare flora in BNP. He is an enormous help to me in my role, and to all of the Bushcarers. We wish him well as he continues to fight his illness, and give him our love and respect.

Barb Raine

Bushcare Coordinator

Friends of Belair National Park

1st February 2019