

FoBNP Bushcare Report for 2020

The total Bushcare hours worked by our Volunteers in 2020 was **2566**. This is remarkable given that 2020 will go down in history as the year of COVID-19, with unprecedented disruptions and sessions missed due to Lockdowns. The hours for 2019 were 2086, i.e. we've worked 480 more hours in 2020, making the 2020 achievement a true credit to our devoted bushcarers.

In total 34 sessions were missed in 2020, 15 of these due to COVID lockdowns, 6 due to scheduled breaks over Christmas and New Year, and 13 due to the inclement weather - rain, heat or Total Fire Bans.

1797 hours were worked by the regular Tuesday, Friday and Saturday groups, and an excellent total of 769 hours were contributed by Adopt-a-Block and individual workers. Nearly 40% of the 769 hours was worked by one man, Ross. Well done Ross, you are amazing! The Third Saturday of the month group, led by Pete, contributed 214 hours. Thank you to all our amazing Adopt-a-Block people, who come in and work so hard for the park, Vaike, Heather, Craig and Jo and family, Brian, Ian, Natalie, Jen and Tim, Darcy, Spencer, Mary, Hayley, John, Jim and Fae, and the Raine family. Special thanks too to Bevin for his contributions to planning, and for working alone when the lockdown in March kept the rest of us at home.

The Vegetation Management Units (VMUs) where most hours were contributed:

- VMU 19 – 275 hours
- VMU 9 – 221 hours
- VMU 38 – 205 hours
- VMU 28 – 162 hours
- VMU 16 – 132 hours
- VMU 27 – 114 hours
- VMU 18 – 103 hours
- VMU 20 – 87 hours

The most-targeted weeds were Montpelier broom, Sollya, South African daisy, and of course Boneseed.

We are so grateful to Frances Eltridge for compiling our records and making very useful suggestions to improve our documentation.

We have been greatly helped by the important and knowledgeable contribution by James McGregor, who has guided us in selecting the most important and bio-diverse areas in Belair National Park in which to concentrate our efforts. He has produced a map which we now follow in order to determine work priorities. James has also given us invaluable help with information for Grant applications.

Thanks to generous Grants, Trees for Life Contractors worked in VMUs 9A, 27, 31, 34 and 43. Our special thanks to John McIntyre and Carol Parrott for their excellent work with Grant applications, which have been very successful.

The number of active bushcarers has increased to 60, who come on Tuesdays, Fridays and the monthly Saturday sessions, and whenever they can. We are so grateful to them all for the willing hours they contribute.

2020 has been topped by the "retirement" of Team Leaders Mike Cerchez and myself – yes we are no longer in charge, but still plan to come along regularly to enjoy Bushcare with you all – and we are delighted to have Mick Ayre as our new Coordinator in 2021. Welcome and thank you Mick!

And again, a big THANK YOU to all our wonderful Bushcarers!

Barb Raine

Bushcare Co-ordinator to 31 Dec 2020