

Bushcare Report January 2022

In January, despite the holidays, Covid issues and hot weather, the Friends of Belair National Park worked 120 hours.

- VMU 43 – 68 hours
- VMU 25 – 31 hours
- VMU 26 – 21 hours

VMU 43 was worked out of numerical order because of flowering Sollya (*Billardiera cymosa*), which was easy to spot and identify due to its bright blue flowers, and importantly easy and efficient to remove at this stage before seeds formed. This task was greatly assisted by the enthusiastic Saturday group of 24 volunteers, lead by Pete Raine.

We have now returned to adjacent VMUs 25 and 26, removing Montpellier broom (*Genista monspessulana*), Boneseed, Thistles, Hackberry (*Celtis sp.*) and small Olives.

Two sessions were cancelled due to hot weather.

I am very pleased to report that assistance has been offered with the Bushcare Coordinator role. Craig Baulderstone has taken on supervising Tuesday sessions. Catherine Miles will take the first Friday session of each month. She has also undertaken a new initiative: a fortnightly evening session during daylight saving months, 5 – 7pm, which enables those in the workforce or students unable to attend weekday sessions to come and contribute to our efforts to benefit the park environment. For this session, commencing Tuesday February 1st, participants will meet at Gate 11, the Waverley entrance, to work in VMU 48 initially. If you are able to assist in this timeframe you are welcome to join us for whatever time you have available. A later start or an earlier finish is quite acceptable, as long as Catherine knows when you arrive and when you leave, to facilitate your safety and our record-keeping!

Thank you to all our hard-working Volunteers!

Barb Raine



Some of the 3rd Saturday Bushcare group on 15 Jan 2022; *photo from FoBNP Facebook, taken by Dharshini.*