

## HFNC Weed Control Report for Nigretta Falls Scenic Reserve 2014

### African Weed Orchid (AWO)

This weed was found on this Reserve in 2009. Work has continued annually in Oct-Nov.

Works carried out in 2014 were as follows:

- Sunday 21 Sep – KS dug 50 AWO (1 hr)
- Sunday 5 Oct – RT dug 91 plants (3 pm-4.30 pm)
- Sunday 12 Oct – RT dug 234 plants (11.45-3.30 pm)
- Sunday 18 Oct – RT and 2 others (Daniel & Milo) dug 155 plants (2 pm-4 pm)
- Sunday 26 Oct – RT dug 62 plants (2 pm-3.30 pm) – 25 plants had lost their heads
- Sunday 2 Nov – RT dug 85 plants (1.15 pm-4 pm) – many had very short or no flower heads but all had viable corms
- Saturday 8 Nov – DL pulled 15 plants near river
- Wednesday 19 Nov – RT dug 82 plants (2-3.45 pm), mostly short, spindly, dark brown plants.
- Saturday 31 Jan 2015 – RT dug 38 plants (1.15 hr) to remove the corms (seed had shed)

AWO remains a serious pest on the Scenic Reserve. This year has seen the most comprehensive attack on the AWO on the Scenic Reserve. The history of attempts on this pest plant and some others is given below:

- 2014 – 787 AWO dug and 15 plants pulled (15 hrs) – 38 of those were dug in Feb 2015
- 2013 – 230 AWO dug (2 hr)
- 2012 – 70 AWO, 220 Wild Gladiolus, 50 Grevillea and dozens of *Ixia* pulled (2.3 hrs)
- 2011 – 50 AWO dug and 12 Grevillea plants pulled (4 hr)
- 2010 – 180 AWO dug; 615 AWO, 450 Wild Gladiolus, 70 *Ixia* & 87 Grevillea pulled (12 hr)
- 2009 – 217 AWO dug and 104 AWO and 10 *Grevillea rosmarinifolia* pulled (6 hrs)

### Blue Periwinkle (*Vinca major*), Phalaris and Cocksfoot

3 Nov 2014 – RB spot-sprayed *Vinca major* and clumps of Phalaris and Cocksfoot (in the area west of the entrance drive (10 L of Glyphosate & Metsulfuron Methyl mix), around the toilet block and just north from that facility along the drive to the pool (4 L of spray). 11 am-1.30 pm (2.5 hrs). Phalaris clumps remain a major problem east of the track to the swimming hole.

*Vinca major* is an intractable weed species – it seems that glyphosate is required to eventually kill the plant, since Metsulfuron Methyl has not been very effective since work began 10 years ago (Nov. 2004).

### *Ixia* and Wild Gladiolus

*Ixia* plants and bulbils remain on-site (near the walkway overlooking the falls) where plants were pulled in 2012, and some Wild Gladiolus also remain there and on grassland 20 m to the south. A patch of *Ixia* also remains on the steep slope 20 m west of the spur.

### *Grevillea rosmarinifolia*

This native species was planted in the reserve by the Wannan-Nigretta Management Committee in the 1970s. The species does not occur naturally in the Hamilton region and has proved to be very invasive. Only a few plants were seen and removed in 2014.