

HFNC weed control report for Nigretta Falls Scenic Reserve 2012

African Weed Orchid (AWO) were found on this Reserve in 2009 and efforts were immediately made in an effort to control the menace. That work has continued annually in Oct-Nov. Other weeds include *Vinca major*, with a major infestation in the SE area (near the toilets area and left side of the entrance road), Cocksfoot, *Phalaris*, Wild Gladiolus, *Iris* and Rosemary Grevillea. The Shire has attacked some areas of Gorse and *Juncus acutus* near the river.

Works carried out in 2012 were as follows:

- 08May12 (2 hr) – RB spot-sprayed (10L Ally & wetter with a little Glyphosate) on *Vinca* (thousands of new germinants), mostly in the area left of entrance road and about 40 plants near toilets. Estimated 5 mL spray applied per plant, therefore about 2,000 plants treated.
- 11Sep12 (2 hr) – RB spot-sprayed (9L Ally, Glyphosate & wetter) on *Vinca* and Cocksfoot plants – new germinants of *Vinca* since May. Some *Vinca* were seen flowering in *Phalaris* clumps along the road to the Swimming Hole, and those plants were sprayed,
- 13Oct12 (2 hr) – RB, JC & GC pulled 70 AWO, 220 Wild Gladiolus & 50 *Grevillea rosmarinifolia* seedlings from the native grassland area adjacent to the Falls. There were hundreds of Sun Orchids and Golden Moth orchids, and a few *Caladenia carnea*, in flower in this area.
- 24Oct12 (0.3 hr) – RB pulled all flowering *Ixia* plants from the area on east flank of Falls spur lookout. Milkmaids and Chocolate Lilies occur in the area

Action on *Vinca* must continue in coming years, preventing flowering and continuing to exhaust the enormous soil seed reserves (spraying of germinants has continued for 7 years). Off-target damage to natives is not expected to be great, since the dense area of infestation currently contains few natives.

Cocksfoot plants will have to be spot-sprayed for many years, until native grasses and other native species can re-colonise the area in the south.

Phalaris infestation in the sloping area east of the road to the Swimming Hole remains to be treated – a request has been made to Southern Grampians Shire to slash that area (at a height of about 15 cm) to allow effective spot-spraying of the massive *Phalaris* clumps and associated *Vinca* and *Iris* without destroying any native species.

Ixia bulbils that remain on-site when the plants are pulled, and some Wild Gladiolus, mean that more action is needed next year. A patch of *Ixia* (or another bulbous garden plant) remains on the slope 20 m west of the spur and that needs to be treated, too.

While the Scenic Reserve is far from pristine with regards to its native flora, control of exotics there will prevent them from crossing the river and degrading the Flora Reserve. Currently there is no *Sparaxis* or Cape Tulip in either reserve. No *Vinca*, Gorse, Spiny Rush, *Ixia* or *Iris* plants have been seen in the Flora Reserve.