

HFNC Weed Control Report for Nigretta Falls Scenic Reserve 2018

African Weed Orchid (AWO): This weed is a serious environmental pest and was found on this Reserve in 2009. Work by HFNC to control it has continued annually in Oct-Nov-Dec.

The history of attempts to control this pest plant and some others on this reserve was given in the 2016 report.

Roger Thompson has again attacked this pest plant on several occasions across the site. Dave & Lyn also scanned the NE sector at a working bee in November.

- 13 Oct – RT, 264 AWO in 2.2 hrs
- 28 Oct – RT, 45 AWO dug up
- Oct – RT, wiped approx. 120 AWO in 1.5 hr
- Nov – RT, wiped approx. 150 AWO in 1.5 h
- 24 Nov – DM & LM, 46 AWO dug up
- 06 Jan – RT, 100 dug in 1 hr

In the January visit Roger only covered about 1/3rd of the total block. The AWO brown tops were very visible and the tubers easy to find. No doubt there will be another crop to deal with in spring 2019.

The results indicate that not much has changed since last year and that there is still a ‘healthy’ population of AWO present on the Scenic Reserve. Perhaps it is time to use the herbicide-wiping method which is easier and possibly more effective than digging up the plants and tubers.

Ixias were seen on 24 November flowering near the rocks at the lookout over the edge of the falls and efforts must be made to eradicate them in 2019, before the majority are in flower. Attempts have been made in years past but not followed up stringently. In the rocky situation where they are found, herbicide-wiping is the best method of control.

A summary of works on this reserve since 2009 is given below:

- 2018 – 725 AWO dug or wiped (approx. 9 hrs)
- 2017 – 603 AWO dug (22.5 hr)
- 2016 – 1618 AWO dug (20.7 hr), incl. 244 in early Jan. 2017
- 2015 – 276 AWO dug (5 hr)
- 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)