

Wannon Flora Reserve works report for 2024

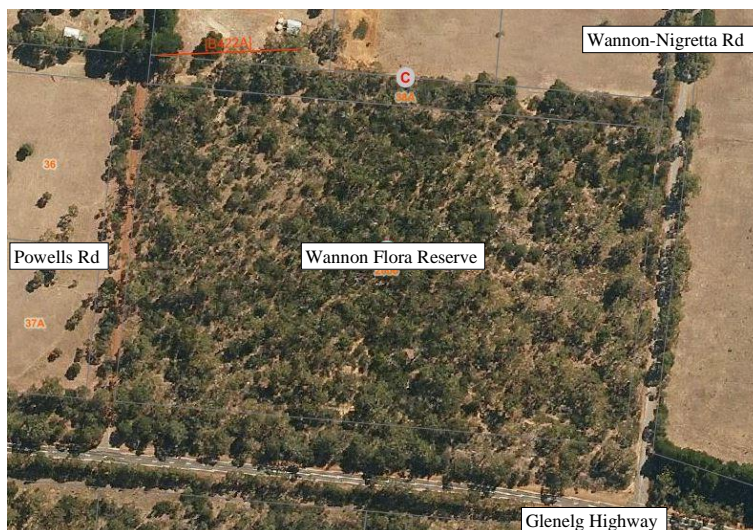
Rod Bird

Background to the reserve

The [2021 works report](#) gives the history of the reserve and concerns over the spread of Hedge Wattle (*Acacia paradoxa*) in the Flora Reserve, and details of previous works.

The [2022 works report](#) gives further details of the applications made for funding and obtaining permits for removal of vegetation

The [2023 works report](#) – for 2 funded projects:



- **SGSC project No. 00019** (\$2,480) – ‘*Acacia paradoxa* control on Wannon Flora Reserve’. This involved continued work to control regeneration of *A. paradoxa* on areas cleared in previous years, as well as treating any mature trees that have yet to be cleared from the central area of the reserve. For details of this project refer to the **Acquittal report for the Greater Grants Program, Round 1 – 2022/23** – Application No. 00019.
- **GHCMA Landcare project VLG042** (\$18,266) – a Landmate crew from Ararat cut *A. paradoxa* on the western fringe of the reserve and Woodrowe chipped and removed the cut shrubs. HFNC volunteers helped in hauling cut shrubs to the chipper and managed the project. The Levos Forestry Services team of 3 workers then cut most of the remaining large shrubs. Those cut shrubs were left on site. For project details, refer to the **Victorian Landcare Grants 2022/23 Final Report-VLG042**. Under supervision from DL and teacher R Hopkins, from 5-10 Year 9 Baimbridge students spent an hour or so one morning a week for 6 weeks pulling small Hedge Wattle seedlings from the periphery of the site.

Work activities in 2024

The on-going work is mainly to remove thousands of *A. paradoxa* seedlings from the cut out areas. That will continue until the soil seed stocks are exhausted. Failure to do that would render useless the work of the last 3 years. Other weeds to deal with include Australian Bluebell (*Solya heterophylla*), Cleavers (*Galium aperaturenne*) – both new invaders. Harlequin Flower (*Sparaxis*), Freesia and *Oxalis purpurea* are persistent older problems. Other work required is to clear away branches and litter from around the base of the old Manna Gums, to help prevent them from being destroyed in a fire.

Saturday 27 April – DL, RB, JS & PH worked from 9 30 am to 12.30 pm; DL & JS removed *A. paradoxa* seedlings from the north side of the reserve while RB & PH used electric chain saws to cut up some of the large shrubs left on the ground by the contractors. This was needed to gain access to shrubs that had been missed by the contractors or had germinated since that work was done.

Total time worked = 12 hrs

Wednesday 8 May – DL, teacher R Hopkins and 10 Year 9 students from Baimbridge College spent an hour (9.30-10.30 am) removing the Hedge Wattle seedlings from the N edge of the reserve. RB spent 3 hr in the NW area, cutting up felled trunks, moving material out to clear areas, then cutting larger Hedge Wattles missed by the contract team. Debris was also cleared from around some old Manna Gums.

Total time worked = 15 hrs

Wednesday 15 May – DL, RH and 9 students from Baimbridge College spent an hour (9.30-10.30 am) removing the Hedge Wattle seedlings from the north and west margins.

Total time worked = 11 hrs

Wednesday 22 May – DL, RH and 8 students from Baimbridge College spent an hour (9.30-10.30 am) removing the Hedge Wattle seedlings. This time they moved into the cut areas and tackled the shrubs that had either germinated there or had been missed earlier.

Total time worked = 10 hrs

Sunday 26 May – RB, DL, PH, JS & SP worked from 9.30-12.00 noon pulling or cutting out Hedge Wattle seedlings and shrubs. As earlier, cut up and shifted a lot of trunks/branches felled by contractors in order to gain access to missed or new shrubs. Cleared debris from around several old Manna Gum.

Total time worked = 12.5 hr

Wednesday 29 May – DL, RH and 9 students from Baimbridge College spent an hour (9.30-10.30 am) removing the Hedge Wattle seedlings. RB worked from 9.00-11.30 am cutting out Hedge Wattle from piles of slash in the centre of the reserve.

Total time worked = 13.5 hr

Wednesday 05 June – DL, RH and 9 students from Baimbridge College spent an hour (9.30-10.30 am) removing the Hedge Wattle seedlings from the edge of the treated area.

Total time worked = 11 hrs

Wednesday 12 June – DL, RH and 8 students from Baimbridge College spent an hour (9.30-10.30 am) removing the Hedge Wattle seedlings. RB spent 2 hrs cutting out a clump of large Hedge Wattle.

Total time worked = 12 hrs

Wednesday 03 July – RB (9.30-11.30 am) cut out large shrubs in the reserve missed by the contractors. Bluebell plants found near NW corner need to be removed.

Total time worked = 2 hr

Thursday 25 July – RB (02.15-04.15 pm) sprayed Bluebells in 6 spots and *Oxalis purpurea* in NW corner on the lane and Cleavers at the NE corner under Cherry Ballarts and towards the centre. (rain fell 2 hours later so spray effectiveness may be doubtful). 'No Camping' signs have been put on poles at each end of the N track. Also noted that wood thieves have been at work each side of that track.

Total time worked = 2 hrs

Sunday 28 July – RB, DL, JS & S Koprdoва worked from 9.30 am to 12.15 pm. Areas covered were the W, N & E margins, with some attention to the edges where cut shrubs lie. Also RB clearing around the base of old Manna Gum and Silver Banksia and cutting out Hedge Wattle missed on S side. Some Cleavers found near one old tree needs to be sprayed. Some Bluebell in SW area missed earlier was pulled out.

Total time worked = 11 hr

Sunday 10 November – RB, Rhett Beattie, Emily B & Angus B worked from 9.30 to 12.00 noon on the W and N fringes, going 10-20 m into the cut brush area, pulling several hundred Hedge Wattle seedlings. Also 8 Bluebell plants pulled. After lunch RB & DL worked from 1.00-3.00 pm on the SW area, well into the cut brush parts. Three patches had large Hedge Wattles to be cut down, which required a lot of clearing away previously cut debris to gain access. A few shrubs on the S side remain to be cut in 2025. Storms have knocked over one large Silver Banksia

Total time worked = 14 hr