

# HFNC Report on Kanawalla Flora Reserve 2016

Rod Bird  
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## Kanawalla Rail Flora Reserve Trail Improvement Grant

In June 2016 HFNC submitted to the Southern Grampians Shire Council a Greater Grants Program Pitch Form for trail works on this disused rail reserve. The application was for a Community Sustainability project. The proposed works were to grade the trail on the old rail line bed to improve public access, allowing cyclists and walkers to enjoy this interesting reserve. The present surface in some sections is rutted where the sleepers were removed.

HFNC had worked from 2004-08 with various funding bodies to remove 200 pines (100 of which were from 30-150 cm diam.) and 41 large cypress from the reserve planted back shrubs and trees indigenous to the area, and controlled environmental weeds such as Briar Rose, Sparaxis and Phalaris. The rail bed was also cleared of Black Wattles to enable access for management along the 1 km reserve.

The grant sought was for \$2,500. That would cater for grading of at least the worst sections of the trail and the installation of a pipe culvert at the entry off Hensley Park Rd and slashing of the grass on the trail. HFNC will provide labour for 'in-kind' contribution of approximately \$1000. That work will include clearing branches along the trail, removing Black Wattle stumps from the line of the trail to be graded, applying herbicide to the 2-3 m wide trail strip in order to facilitate grading, and removal of any large stones from the graded surface.

### Progress to date:

1. Spraying the trail – RB applied Glyphosate herbicide to the line, 3 Nov (2 hr) & 4 Nov (2 hr)
2. Branch trimming and clearing fallen timber from the trail – RB spent 1 hr on 4 Nov. trimming branches and RB & PH each spent 6 hr on 10 Nov. clearing 2 fallen trees off the line, removing 2 pine stumps and completing the branch trimming.
3. Stump removal from trail – PH & RB each spent 3 hr on 22 Nov. digging out 7 large Black Wattle stumps (4 of them large) from the line, using crowbars, mattock, splitter, spade and hydraulic jack.
4. Permit for installation of a pipe culvert – RB saw the SGSC on 22 Nov. about this matter and obtained the necessary information. The permit will cost \$69.
5. Contractor to do the trail grading – RB took one contractor to the site on 20 Oct. for an inspection but the excavator was not suited to this particular site. Other contractors will be approached after the trail is slashed.
6. Trail slashing – JC arranged for this work to be done in mid-December and that is expected to occur shortly.

## Other work and notes on the reserve

Weed control (the last control work was carried out on 11 June 2014)

- *Fumaria* under the big partly fallen Wild Cherry on the SW end of embankment was rampant this year – RB attempted to eliminate the spread by applying Glyphosate spray on 3 Nov.
- *Sparaxis* – 97 were wiped by RB with Glyphosate-metsulfuron methyl herbicide on 3 Nov. This infestation was in the wet area east of the embankment – 70 plants had been treated there in 2012 but none were seen on 5 Dec. 2014.
- Briar Rose – a dozen or so shrubs were sprayed by RB on 10 Nov.
- *Disa bracteata* (AWO) – this curse has appeared in numbers along the west side of the station ground. PH & RB herbicide-wiped 185 AWO and removed the heads on 10 Nov.
- *Phalaris* – on 10 Nov. RB applied 6 L of Glyphosate spray on Phalaris clumps about 100 m from the Hensley Park end.
- *Oxalis purpurea* – no work was done on this species this year, the last done 11 June 2014

Tree guards – the wide-mesh guards on Silver Banksia need to be removed now

New Bird sightings – the list in 2012 was 44 species and 2 recent additions take it to 46.

- Musk Lorikeet (05/12/2014)
- White-naped Honeyeater (03/11/2016)