

HFNC Weed Control Report for Nigretta Falls Scenic Reserve 2019

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 has been given in previous reports. A tally of plants removed in each year is given at the bottom of the page.

Roger Thompson has attacked this pest plant on nine occasions across the site in 2019:

- 01 Oct – 140 AWO dug in 1.45 hrs
- 04 Oct – 142 AWO dug in 1.3 hrs
- 08 Oct – 226 AWO dug in 2 hrs
- 13 Oct – 30 AWO dug in 0.4 hrs
- 26 Oct – 162 AWO dug in 1.45 hrs
- 27 Oct – 65 AWO dug in 1.15 hrs
- 02 Nov – 21 AWO herbicide-wiped in 1 hr
- 09 Nov – 12 AWO dug in 0.45 hrs
- 19 Nov – 9 AWO dug in 1 hr

There is still a ‘healthy’ population of AWO present on the Scenic Reserve. Perhaps it is time to rely more on the herbicide-wiping method for the work in October – an easier and possibly more effective application than digging up the plants and tubers.

Over the last 11 years Roger has mostly been a lone worker on this area while other members assisted with the Flora Reserve across the Wannon River. However, it would be good if some members who cannot assist with the weed work across the river could make an occasional visit to the scenic reserve in November or December, armed with a large screwdriver and a plastic bag, and spend a little time in the area digging up any AWO seen. The plants will mostly have from 1 to 2 tubers attached. Plants that are very small in October are mostly not seen then and only become evident in early summer, sometimes after we have finished up. Record the number of plants dug up and let us know the plant tally, to add to those collected by Roger.

Ixias were seen flowering in late November near the rocks at the lookout over the edge of the falls. We need to tackle those plants in late October before they flower because they appear to be displacing the native species there. Attempts have been made in years past but not followed up stringently. Herbicide-wiping is the best method of control in the rocky situation where they are found. Wild *Gladiolus* is another garden plant that is establishing along the waterfront and slopes. It needs to be wiped, too.

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

- 2019 – 806 AWO dug or wiped (10.2 hours)
- 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)