

HFNC weed control report for Four Posts Streamside Reserve 2020

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The Four Posts Streamside Reserve is situated immediately upstream from the Four Posts Bridge on Nigretta Rd. There is a triangular shaped block on the north bank, adjacent to the road reserve and Hewett Park (SGSC – an old quarry site stripped of gravel by the former Hamilton City Council) and a block on the south bank upstream to a now disused rhyolite quarry.

The native flora of this significant Crown Frontage was largely determined in surveys from 1975-80. HFNC made a submission to the Land Conservation Council (LCC) in the 1980s extolling the virtues of this picturesque area and the Land Conservation Council subsequently recommended it become a Streamside Reserve. The flora is listed in the publication *Indigenous Vascular Flora of the Wannon River frontages from Wannon Falls to the Red Rd Bridge* (Rod Bird, 2011 – updated in 2018 and available on the HFNC website).

On 1 Oct. 2020, a group of 24 *Caladenia parva* (Greencomb Spider-orchid) were found on the reserve. There are old records from the Wannon Flora Reserve (possibly *C. tentaculata*) but this is the only record from the Wannon River frontages. Further, on 29 Sept. 2020, two flowering *Calochilus robertsonii* (Purplish Beard-orchid) were found on private property on the west side of the Nigretta Rd. These findings follow the recording of *Pterostylis plumosa* (Bearded Greenhood) on the reserve on 25 Oct. 2019 (flowering again in 2020) and the current list of native vascular flora species is 133.

African Weed Orchid (AWO) were found here in 2016 and efforts have been made since to control them there, on private frontage downstream from the bridge on the south bank ('Paman Mirring') and to a lesser extent on part of Hewett Park adjacent to the east side of the north block of the Reserve.



South Block – 12 hrs with 4 visits (29 Sept.-20 Nov.) and 839 AWO wiped + 398 dug = 1237
North Block – 5 hrs with 2 visits (21 Oct.-20 Nov) and 542 AWO wiped + 60 pulled = 602
Adjacent 'Paman Mirring' – 358 AWO, mostly dug

In late November there was evidence in the damper areas that some tubers were sprouting. Whether these plants can survive the summer, or maintain a viable tuber into next spring, is unknown.

Summary of works to control AWOs on the Four Posts Streamside Reserve since 2016:

- 2020 – 840 AWO wiped & 400 dug on Sth side, 540 wiped & 60 pulled on Nth side = 1839
- 2019 – 416 AWO wiped on south side, 535 wiped on north side = 951
- 2018 – 67 AWO (29 wiped & 38 dug) on south side, 624 wiped on north side = 691
- 2017 – 199 AWO wiped or dug on south side, 478 wiped or dug on north side, = 677
- 2016 – 1648 AWO dug on north side, incl. part of Hewett Park = 1648
- 2015 – AWO dug but numbers not available