

## HFNC Weed Control Report for Nigretta Falls Scenic Reserve 2020

**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 Spring.

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 10 occasions across the site in 2020:

- 25 Jul – 105 immature AWO dug in 2.2 hrs
- 22 Aug – 11 immature AWO dug in 1.0 hrs
- 01 Sept. – 64 immature AWO dug in 1.2 hrs
- 23 Sept. – 182 immature AWO dug in 2.0 hrs
- 30 Sept. – 58 AWO dug in 1.15 hrs
- 10 Oct. – 144 AWO dug in 2.0 hrs
- 13 Oct. – 165 AWO with heads herbicide-wiped in 2.0 hr
- 22 Oct. – 97 AWO mostly flowering herbicide-wiped in 1.3 hr
- 28 Oct. – 123 AWO mostly new plants herbicide-wiped in 1.3 hrs
- 15 Nov. – 55 AWO new and some older plants dug in 1 hr

2020 was a good year for AWO, with 1004 plants found, the second greatest tally in 12 years.

Over 12 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, to spend a little time in the area digging up any AWO seen. The plants will mostly have 1 or 2 tubers attached. Plants that are very small in October 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.

### **Ixia**

Masses of *Ixia*, some flowering, were seen in the rocks at the lookout over the edge of the falls. These were spot-sprayed with glyphosate on 16 October, taking care to avoid the natives there, such as Red Parrot-pea (*Dillwynia hispida*) and New Holland Daisy (*Vittadinia cuneata*). Herbicide-wiping will be the best method of control now that the numbers of this invasive garden plant has been reduced.

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

- 2020 – 1004 AWO dug or wiped (15.1 hrs) and clumps of *Ixia* spot-sprayed (0.3 hr)
- 2019 – 806 AWO dug or wiped (10.2 hrs)
- 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)