

# Wannon Flora Reserve *Acacia paradoxa* control report 2022-23

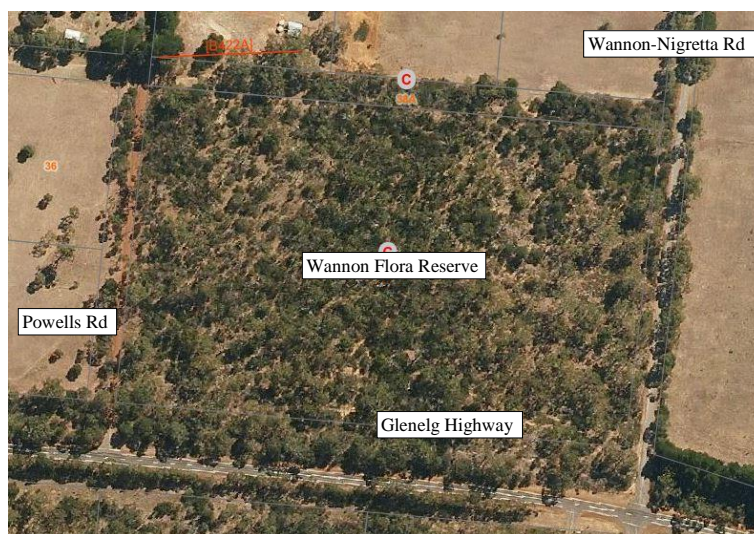
## Hamilton Field Naturalists Club

### Background to the project

See the 2021 report for 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 report gives further details of the applications made for funding and obtaining permits for removal of vegetation

**Work planned for 2023 – HFNC** had 2 projects funded:



- **SGSC project No. 00019** (\$2,480) – ‘*Acacia paradoxa* control on Wannon Flora Reserve’. This involves continued work in controlling regeneration of *A. paradoxa* on areas cleared in previous years, as well as continuing to treat any mature trees that have yet to be cleared from the central area of the reserve. The funds requested were for equipment associated with cutting the pest shrubs (light electric chainsaws, long-handled loppers, protection gear, etc). This equipment was used by HFNC volunteers in this and the Landcare project VLG042.

For details of this project refer to the **Acquittal report for the Greater Grants Program, Round 1 – 2022/23** – Application No. 00019 (see attached pdf).

- **GHCMA Landcare project VLG042** (\$18,266) – this involves a Landmate crew from Ararat and Levos Forestry Services cutting *A. paradoxa* on the western third of the reserve and pulling the shrubs out to Powells Rd reserve for removal. Woodrowe Tree Technicians was contracted to chip and remove the cut shrubs from the cleared margin of the reserve. HFNC volunteers also assisted in hauling cut shrubs to the chipper and managed the project. The funds requested were largely for the payment of contractors but some funds were also required for equipment, particularly heavy gloves to handle the very spiny pest shrubs, another (larger) battery-powered chain saw and 2 loppers to cut up many of the larger shrubs.

This was a demanding project, requiring constant supervision to ensure OH&S matters were foremost, to organise the contractors and volunteers, and to ensure that non-target species were not removed. Printed material was made available to workers and students to ensure they could discriminate between *A. paradoxa* and several other shrubs, such as Tree Violet and Sweet Bursaria. Under supervision, from 5-10 Baimbridge students spent an hour or so one morning a week for 6 weeks pulling small seedlings from the periphery of the site.

The Landmate crew volunteers (3-5 workers) could not cut all of the pest shrubs – the long travel times, few workers available and only on 4 days, meant that the project had to be varied. Permission was given to use the savings from the chipping allocation by the Levos team, which completed the task of cutting out the large shrubs, effectively covering most of the reserve.

For project details, refer to the **Victorian Landcare Grants 2022/23 Final Report-VLG042** (see attached pdf). Future work will require HFNC volunteers to remove thousands of seedlings.