

HFNC weed control work at Wannon Flora Reserve Update to November 2011

Rod Bird

Background

This Flora Reserve (once known as Wannon 18 Acre Reserve) lies on the north side of the Glenelg Highway, opposite the “Boomerang Gate”. This was originally private bushland used for extraction of sand and gravel and for dumping rubbish. It was resumed in the mid-1950s and transferred to the management of the Wannon & Nigretta Committee of Management, under the Lands Department. This is a rare remnant of Dundas Tableland flora. Part of the area contains heath. The only eucalypt is Manna Gum (*E. viminalis*); the other indigenous tree species are Cherry Ballart (*Exocarpos cuppressiformis*), Silver Banksia (*Banksia marginata*), Blackwood (*A. melanoxylon*) and Drooping Sheoak (*Allocasuarina verticillata*). The tiny Feather-tailed Glider (*Acrobates pygmaeus*) has been found here.

HFNC has a long association with this reserve, beginning in September 1959 when HFNC wrote to the Wannon & Nigretta Management Committee offering ‘*support and co-operation to develop the 18-acre reserve at the Wannon as a miniature National Park and Wildflower Reserve*’. Their offer was accepted and members of HFNC served also on the Wannon & Nigretta Management Committee.

HFNC conducted 13 working bees from 1960 to 1969, removing tons of rubbish, rabbit-proof fencing the reserve, surveying the flora and removing *A. paradoxa* (Hedge Wattle) that had flourished when part of the reserve had been used as a tip site in the 1950s. Removal of pines and other non-indigenous species continues. Between 1963 and 1980 perhaps a hundred thousand *A. paradoxa* were pulled out. *A. longifolia*, *A. pycnantha* and *A. decurrens* were seen in 1964 when specimens were collected for the HFNC herbarium. We regard all 3 species as being alien to this area.

HFNC made this reserve a focus of their early work, developing expertise in field survey, collection and identification of specimens. Margaret Corrick, Lionel Elmore and Murray Gunn were three members who contributed largely to the development of the HFNC herbarium, with assistance from Cliff Beauglehole (Portland FNC). HFNC plant surveys of the area in the early 1960s revealed 167 native species. The current list is 172 indigenous native species but some orchid species, in particular, have not been seen in recent years. A list of native flora for the various parts of the reserve has been compiled (see attached table). A number are not seen elsewhere along the Wannon or in the district. These species include Scrub Sheoak, Gorse Bitter-pea, Blue-spike Milkwort, Showy Podolepis, Shrub Violet, Greencomb Spider-orchid and Plain-lip Spider-orchid.

The control of this reserve reverted to the Department of Conservation, Forests & Lands in the late 1980s and to Parks Victoria in the 1990s. The gates were stolen in late 1990s and the fence had deteriorated. PV made a track along the reserve side of the northern boundary and then removed the fence, incorporating the northern unused road reserve (and its stand of Drooping Sheoak (*Allocasuarina verticillata*) into the flora Reserve.

HFNC attempted to have ParksVictoria conduct an autumn burn in the reserve in 1999 but this was patchy and largely ineffective; the main impact was to burn down a couple of old Manna Gums. A contractor engaged for rabbit control work bulldozed a break around the inside boundary of the reserve, extensively damaging the heathland on the Nigretta Rd end where the break was diverted to a line some 30 m inside the reserve. Vegetation on that line has since largely regenerated.

Recent environmental works on the reserve

In 2009 Brian McInnon (PV) noted:

- Parks Vic is trying to control weeds and rabbits on this Reserve, thank you and HFNC for your help.
- I have been concentrating efforts on Sallow and Early Black Wattle over the last couple of years.
- Some warrens have been marked and will be fumigated in the next few weeks.
- Fence removal has occurred to prevent entanglement of fauna and to prevent grazing.

- 6 June 2009 – several members visited the reserve and removed some environmental weeds.
 - *A. longifolia* - several dozens of small seedlings were pulled from the reserve and adjacent Henty Highway road reserve, with 10-20 larger trees cut down or poisoned (these were missed in recent PV operations). The road reserve now appears to be clear of the wattle, although the roadside opposite is heavily contaminated. We noted a few large *A. decurrens* and *A. pycnantha* still present in the SW area.
 - RZ used a “hydro-axe” to poison some large *A. longifolia* and *A. decurrens*.
 - Some *A. paradoxa* seedlings were removed from otherwise open areas in the reserve to try and retain some open space for other native species. There is, currently, a very large cover of this species in the western and central areas.

- 11 June 2009 – RB spot-sprayed (Ally & Pulse in 3 L spray)
 - garden bulbs growing in about a dozen spots along the Glenelg Highway road reserve, adjacent to the 18-acre Reserve, plus some *Sparaxis bulbifera* further west towards the river.

- 15 Sep 2009 – RB
 - sprayed about 50 *Sparaxis* plants on edge of Wannon-Nigretta Rd on the same side as the reserve, approx. 70 m from Glenelg Highway corner.
 - dozens of *Freesia* were seen in the SW area of the reserve (mainly on the areas disturbed by past rubbish tipping – centred in a circle of about 20 m around a very tall Manna Gum with Cherry Ballart nearby) and many of these were sprayed. There were few plants in flower and more effort is needed in 2010.

- 18 Oct 2010 – RB, 5.00-5.30 pm
 - *Freesia* – wiped with Ally/Pulse/dye ~ 40 plants in SW corner, approx. 40 m inside the reserve
 - Other bulbous exotic – wiped several large plants in Glenelg Highway road reserve adjacent to the above area
 - *Sparaxis* – wiped with Ally/Pulse/dye ~ 12 plants on Nigretta-Wannon road reserve approx. 70 m from Glenelg Highway.

Indigenous Vascular Flora of Wannan Flora Reserve ('18-acre Reserve')

HFNC records 1958-1965

with further records from 1986-95 (#)

Rod Bird, Nov. 2011

GENUS	SPECIES	VERNACULAR	W3
Acacia	melanoxylo	Blackwood	r*
Acacia	myrtifolia	Myrtle wattle	*#
Acacia	paradoxa	Hedge wattle	m*
Acacia	verticillata	Prickly moses	m*
Acaena	echinata	Sheep's burr	p*
Acaena	novae-zelandiae	Bidgee-widgee	m
Acrotriche	serrulata	Honey pots	p*
Allocasuarina	pusilla	Dwarf she-oak	r*
Allocasuarina	verticillata	Drooping she-oak	r*
Amphipogon	strictus	Grey-beard grass	p*
Amyema	pendula	Drooping mistletoe	p*
Apodasmia	brownii	Course twine-rush	p*
Arthropodium	fimbriatum	Nodding lily	p*
Arthropodium	milleflorum	Pale vanilla-lily	p*
Arthropodium	strictum	Chocolate lily	m*
Asperula	conferta	Common woodruff	p*
Astroloma	humifusum	Cranberry heath	m
Austrodanthonia	geniculata	Kneed wallaby-grass	p*
Austrodanthonia	setacea	Bristly wallaby-grass	p*
Austrostipa	eremophila	Desert spear grass	p*
Austrostipa	hemipogon	Spear grass	p*
Austrostipa	mollis/semibarbata	Fibrous spear grass	p*
Austrostipa	pubinodis	Tall speargrass	p*
Austrostipa	scabra/nodosa	Variable spear grass	p*
Banksia	marginata	Silver banksia	m*
Brachyloma	ciliatum	Fringed brachyloma	p*
Brunonia	australis	Blue pincushion	m*
Bulbine	bulbosa	Bulbine lily	f
Burchardia	umbellata	Milkmaids	m*
Bursaria	spinosa	Sweet bursaria	f*
Caladenia	carnea	Pink fingers	p*
Caladenia	clavigera	Plain-lip spider orchid	r*
Caladenia	tentaculata	Green-comb spider orchid	r*
Caladenia	tessellata	Thick-lip spider orchid	p*
Calandrinia	granulifera	Pigmy purslane	p*
Calochilus	robertsonii	Purple beard-orchid	m
Centrolepis	aristata	Pointed centrolepis	p*
Centrolepis	polygyna	Wiry centrolepis	p*
Centrolepis	strigosa	Hairy centrolepis	p*
Chaemaescilla	corymbosa	Blue stars	p*
Chrysocephalum	apiculatum	Common everlasting	m*
Clematis	microphylla	Small-leaved clematis	p
Comesperma	calymega	Blue-spike milk-wort	p*
Comesperma	volubile	Love creeper	\$
Convolvulus	angustissimus	Pink bindweed	p*
Corybas	diemenicus	Veined helmet-orchid	m
Corybas	incurvus	Slaty helmet-orchid	p
Cotula	australis	Common cotula	p*
Cotula	coronopifolia	Water buttons	p*
Craspedia	sp.	Common billy-buttons	p*
Crassula	decumbens	Spreading crassula	p*
Crassula	sieberiana	Sieber crassula	p*
Cryptandra	tomentosa	Prickly cryptandra	f*
Cynoglossum	suaveolens	Sweet hound's-tongue	p*
Cyrtostylis	reniformis	Small gnat orchid	p*
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Daucus	glochidiatus	Austral carrot	p*
Daviesia	ulicifolia	Gorse bitter-pea	f*
Deyeuxia	quadriseta	Reed bent-grass	p*
Dianella	admixta/revoluta	Black-anther flax-lily	p*
Dillwynia	glaberrima	Smooth parrot-pea	f*
Dillwynia	hispida	Red parrot-pea	f*
Diuris	chryseopsis	Golden moths	f
Diuris	orientis	Wall-flower orchid	f*
Diuris	sulphurea	Tiger orchid	f*
Drosera	glanduligera	Scarlet sundew	p*
Drosera	peltata	Pale sundew	p*
Drosera	peltata s auric.	Tall sundew	p*
Drosera	pygmaea	Tiny sundew	p*
Drosera	whittakeri	Scented sundew	p*
Elymus	scaber	Common wheat-grass	p
Eragrostis	brownii	Common love-grass	p*
Eucalyptus	viminalis ssp. cyg	Manna gum	m
Euchiton	collinus	Creeping cudweed	p*
Exocarpos	cupressiformis	Cherry ballart	r
Ficinia	nodosa	Knobby club-rush	p
Gahnia	radula	Thatch saw-sedge	p*
Galium	gaudichaudii	Rough bedstraw	p*
Glossodia	major	Wax-lip orchid	r
Gonocarpus	tetragynus	Raspwort	p*
Goodenia	geniculata	Bent goodenia	m*
Helichrysum	scorpioides	Button everlasting	f*
Hibbertia	riparia	Erect guinea-flower	f*
Hyalosperma	demissum	Moss sun-ray	p*
Hybanthus	floribundus	Shrub violet	#*
Hydrocotyle	callicarpa	Small pennywort	p*
Hydrocotyle	foveolata	Yellow pennywort	p*
Hydrocotyle	laxiflora	Stinking pennywort	*#
Hypericum	gramineum	Small St John's wort	p*
Hypoxis	glabella	Yellow star	p*
Isolepis	cernua	Nodding club-rush	p*
Isolepis	platycarpa	- club-rush	p*
Isolepis*	marginata	- club-rush	p*
Isopogon	ceratophyllus	Horny cone-bush	f*
Juncus	bufonius	Toad rush	p*
Juncus	homalocaulis	Wiry rush	p*
Juncus	pallidus	Pale rush	p*
Juncus	pauciflorus	Loose-flower rush	p*
Juncus	planifolius	Broad-leaf rush	p*
Juncus	subsecundus	Finger rush	p*
Kennedia	prostrata	Running postman	m*
Lachnagrostis	filiformis	Common blown-grass	p*
Laxmannia	orientalis	Dwarf wire-lily	p*
Lepidosperma	carphoides	Black rapier-sedge	p*
Lepidosperma	congestum	Clustered sword-sedge	p*
Lepidosperma	curtisiae	Narrow sword-sedge	p*
Lepidosperma	viscidum	Sticky sword-sedge	#
Leptorhynchos	squamatus	Scaly buttons	p*
Leptospermum	myrsinoides	Heath tea-tree	m*
Leucopogon	virgatus	Bearded heath	p*
Levenhookia	dubia	Hairy style-wort	p*
Lomandra	filiformis	Wattle mat-lily	p*
Lomandra	glauca/collina	Pale mat-lily	p*
Lomandra	micrantha/sororia	Small-flowered mat-lily	p*
Luzula	meridionalis	Field wood-rush	p*
Lythrum	hyssopifolia	Small loosestrife	p*
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Melicytus	dentatus	Tree violet	r
Microlaena	stipoides	Weeping grass	p*
Microseris	spp.	Yam daisy	m*
Microtis	unifolia	Common onion-orchid	p*
Millotia	tenuifolia	Soft millotia	p*
Myriocephalus	rhizocephalus	Woolly-heads	p*
Neurachne	alopeкуроidea	Fox-tail mulga grass	p*
Opercularia	varia	Variable stinkweed	p*
Oxalis	perennans	Grassland wood-sorrel	m*
Pelagonium	rodneyanum	Magenta stork's bill	p*
Pentapogon	quadrifidus	Five-awned spear-grass	p*
Pimelea	humilus	Common rice-flower	m*
Plantago	varia	Variable plantain	p*
Platylobium	obtusangulum	Flat-pea	m*
Poa	labillardierei	Common tussock grass	p
Poa	sieberiana	Grey tussock grass	#
Podolepis	jaceoides	Showy podolepis	r*
Poranthera	microphylla	Small poranthera	p*
Pteridium	esculentum	Austral bracken	m
Pterostylis	nana	Dwarf greenhood	m*
Pterostylis	nutans	Nodding greenhood	f*
Pterostylis	pedunculata	Maroon-hood	p*
Pterostylis	striatum	Striped greenhood	p
Ptilotus	macrocephalus	Feather-heads	r*
Pyrorchis	nigricans	Red beaks	p
Rumex	bidens	Mud dock	p*
Schoenus	apogon	Common bog-sedge	p*
Sebaea	ovata	Yellow sebaea	p*
Senecio	minimus	Shrubby fireweed	p*
Senecio	pinnatifolius	Variable groundsel	p
Senecio	quadridentatus	Cotton fireweed	m*
Senecio	squarrosus	Leafy fireweed	p*
Siloxerus	multiflorus	Small wrinkle-wort	p*
Solenogyne	gunnii	- Solenogyne	p*
Sphaerolobium	vimineum	Leaf-less globe-pea	r*
Stuartina	muelleri	Spoon cudweed	p*
Stylidium	graminifolium	Grass trigger-plant	m*
Stylidium	inundatum	Hundreds and thousands	p*
Tetratheca	ciliata	Pink bells	f*
Thelymitra	antennifera	Rabbits-ears	m*
Thelymitra	ixioides	Dotted sun-orchid	p*
Thelymitra	pauciflora	Slender sun-orchid	f*
Thelymitra	rubra	Salmon sun-orchid	p*
Themeda	triandra	Kangaroo grass	m*
Thysanotus	patersonii	Twining fringe-lily	p*
Tricoryne	elatior	Yellow rush-lily	m*
Triglochin	centrocarpum	Dwarf arrow grass	p*
Utricularia	tenella	Pink bladder-wort	p*
Viminaria	juncea	Golden spray	r
Viola	hederacea	Ivy-leaf violet	p
Viola	sieberiana	Tiny violet	p*
Wahlenbergia	gracilentia	Annual bluebell	p*
Wahlenbergia	gracilus	Sprawling bluebell	p
Wahlenbergia	multicaulis	Tadgell's bluebell	p*
Wahlenbergia	stricta	Tall bluebell	p*
Wurmbea	dioica	Early nancy	m*
Xanthorrhoea	minor	Small grass-tree	m
GENUS	SPECIES	VERNACULAR	W3
Number of indigenous native species on Wannon Flora Reserve			172

m = many (>100), f = few (>10), r = rare (<10), p = present; * = specimen collected
= incidental new records from Rod Bird, 1986-1995.