

2015-10-HFNC-activities-events

Hi everyone

This note concerns a few events that I will list below:

Visit to Nigretta Flora Res on Sat 7 Nov – our working bee on 17 Oct attracted only 4 members but, after a long days work, we were able to herbicide-wipe most of the African Weed Orchids (AWO) on the site (about 3,000 plants). There were far fewer AWO than last year but, on Sat 7 Nov, we really need more help to roam over the site and dig up any AWO that we missed wiping. It really is important to get them all before they set and begin to disperse the seed. We will meet at the parking area at the Nigretta pool at 9.30 am. Bring a large screwdriver or a sturdy trowel to dig the AWO and a bag to carry the plants away.

The herbicide experiment that was installed in September 2014 (Ally, Glyphosate or a combination with 2 times of application and 3 replicates of each treatment) showed that both chemicals were effective in killing both the plant and its corms. Glyphosate was effective on all 28 plots; Ally had 6/28 plots with corms present (but no live plants). Controls: 23/27 plots had plants and 26/27 had corms.

Goat cull at Mt Napier SP – 4 of our members are helping PV to man the entry points to the reserve when this cull occurs on Saturday. This event follows 2 last year, when 41 goats were removed by members of the Sporting Shooters Association and PV.

Fulham weed control project – on 12 Sep we had 7 members spend some 29 hours on our Cape Tulip and Sparaxis control work at Fulham. Peter, Diane and I variously added another 47 hrs on 4 other days but we were unable to complete the job. There are some problems. Clearly, our membership is getting older and, after 10 years at Fulham, some are not able or willing to assist. The method we employ is not stressful – the ability to walk slowly across the site is the basic requirement (itself usually a pleasure)! The other problem is the lack of management of vehicles and horses at this reserve – and the damage done to areas that we are treating. I have attached a report of work this year and ask members to read it and give some feedback on what they think our future options are. One option is to withdraw to a much smaller area at Fulham that is less exposed to damage. Letting go entirely will, of course, mean that Cape Tulip will soon over-run the entire heathland and when spraying is re-introduced that will result in destruction of the native vegetation there.

NGT Wetland day on Fri 13 Nov, 10 am-3 pm – meeting at Penshurst and visiting 2 swamps to inspect the plants with Lachlan Farrington and Michelle Casanova. (see attached flyer)

HFNC speaker at next meeting on 19 Nov – Euan Moore will address the meeting (HIRT, 7.30 pm) and his topic will be “Important bird & biodiversity areas in Victoria”

HFNC excursion to Bear SF on Sat 21 Nov - to inspect the fauna nest boxes installed 3 years ago at 5 sites and to look for the mass of Blue Pincushions and other flowers. Meet at Ham Visitor Centre at 9 am.

HFNC fauna survey at Mt Napier – we continue to show presence of goats, sugar gliders, koala, brushtail possums, echidna, black wallaby, red-necked wallaby and grey kangaroo. We also had a fallow deer, bush rat and an antechinus (see the attached file). Our next inspection will be on 24 Nov.

Cheers

Rod Bird