

2016-10-HFNC-activities-events

Hi everyone

Our excursion was to Mt Richmond NP on Sunday 23 Oct and the 4 km West Walk through heathland was fantastic.

We had a perfect day on Saturday 29 Oct to confront the tide of AWO at Nigretta. We approached from the northern side (John contacted Ricky Cox to arrange access). No mosquitoes this time, either. One 'new' flora sp was found – Moss Sunray (*Hyalosperma demissum*) missed on earlier surveys – total native sp. now 205. Water was still oozing on ground in far SW corner and Milk Maids and Chocolate lilies abound there. Quite dry elsewhere, apart from seepage in the central creek above the swimming hole. Lots of orchids flowering, including Onion Orchids, *Thelymitra rubra*, very large *Thelymitra pauciflora* (and perhaps hybrid with *T. ixioides*). Blue Pincushions were yet to bloom but a host of other species in flower. At least 4 pairs of Shinglebacks were seen and Sacred Kingfishers were calling.

We did not quite finish the entire 12-ha reserve since we had to go over all of the area worked 2 weeks earlier. Still a little part in the middle, extending toward the river, and a small strip at the far NE edge to do. We do have to try and get back there later, when the river subsides, to either dig up the remaining AWO or (if there are too many) pluck off the heads. Probably late Nov. Roger has dug up about 1,100 AWO from the Scenic Reserve (south side of the Wannan River).

The tally for Saturday 29 Oct 16 at Nigretta Flora Res was 7,950 AWO wiped! (33hrs and 13 L of solution used) by 5 people. We had 5,675 wiped on Sat 15 Oct (32.5 hrs, for 8 people and 12 L solution used).

Total treated so far in 2016 (we will add some more dug up later or pulled): compared with previous years is shown below. Interesting to see what happens next year! Did all the seed in the soil germinate this year? Last year looked so promising but probably there was a lot of seed not germinated in the dry conditions. One must wonder what it would have been like had we done nothing! (or will we ever succeed in controlling the pest? – surely biological control should be investigated or AWO will dominate all of our sandy-type reserves).

- 13,625 in 2016
- 4,045 in 2015
- 7,975 in 2014
- 8,275 in 2013
- 6,900 in 2012
- 5,500 in 2011
- 13,720 in 2010
- 22,500 in 2009

Cheers

Rod