



Bushcare welcomes new supervisors

The City of Hobart Bushcare Team welcomes aboard Michelle Storer and Nicole Gill as our new joint Bushcare Operations Supervisors. Taking over from Sue Rae, the two new supervisors will split the position and work 3 days each per week, each covering one Sunday per fortnight. This will ensure that a permanent supervisor is available for the weekend working bees, while allowing for planning and admin time during the week. Michelle and Nicole came on board just before Christmas, and have spent time early in the year getting familiar with the program and some of the local reserves.

Michelle first moved to Tassie many years ago to study Plant Science at UTAS, then left to spend several years first in Canberra, then in Central Australia working for the federal environment department and Parks Australia. Moving back with her family in 2010, she has since worked in local government NRM and as an agricultural science

research technician. She's also volunteered for the last three years on the committee of a Landcare group in the Huon Valley – so has an insider's understanding of being an environmental volunteer. Michelle's looking forward to getting familiar with the amazing bushland within the Hobart municipality, and the wonderful volunteers that look after it!

Nicole grew up over the river on a small farm at Sorell, and despite numerous attempts to leave Tasmania to live in exotic locations, still can't seem to stay away. She's worked in a broad range of environmental- jobs since completing her science degree at UTAS, for NGO's, and in local and state government, and lives in the foothills of kunanyi/Mount Wellington. Nicole also writes on environmental topics for both adults and children, and has what some people might consider to be an unhealthy interest in invasive species management.



Photo: Michelle Storer meets one of the locals on a recent Bushcare field trip



Photo: Nicole Gill amongst the foliage

Bushcare Training Days: 101 ways to control weeds

Sunday 22 January saw 20 Bushcare members gather at Brown's Rd in Fern Tree to learn about the different techniques we use to treat / control invasive weeds that threaten kunanyi/Mt Wellington's native biodiversity!



Photo: Trying the drill & fill method on a radiata pine

The event was led by Bec Johnson, a long serving employee of City of Hobart's Bushlands team and a volunteer with the Fern Tree group. Bec led participants along a carefully marked out circuit chosen for the array of native and invasive plants it presented. Identification skills of both native plants and weeds were practiced, and several weed control methods were demonstrated.

New weeds to many included daphne laurel, tree lomatia, and kohuhu (*Pittosporum tenuifolium*), while more commonly seen Bushcare 'favourites', including holly, karamu, Elisha's tears, fox

gloves and Spanish heath were also named and shamed. The basal bark control technique was demonstrated, and participants were able to try their hands at the 'drill & fill', and the 'cut & paint' methods. There were good examples on site of dead holly trees that had successfully been killed using the drill & fill method in the past.

The event provided a great opportunity for volunteers to expand their knowledge of weeds, learn about the different control methods, and discover which methods work best for particular weeds. Topics including weed biosecurity, habitat management and fire management were also discussed.

On Sunday 12 February, a second family friendly event was conducted at Ridgeway Park. The long weekend and weather may have kept some away, but despite the rain a small group of adults and children enjoyed a stroll along the Pipeline Track to Halls Saddle. Participants learned about the devastating impact of the 1967 fires on Fern Tree, and how City of Hobart's bushland team manages the fire risk today. We identified native plants and checked out the wildflowers and tree hollows. The kids had a go at cutting blackberry, broom and briar rose while the adults applied the herbicide.



Photo: Bec helps a young Bushcarer with the cut & paint method

The events, were attended by a range of volunteers providing great opportunities to expand plant and weed ID skills, knowledge of weed control methods, and enhance understanding of how weeds spread and impact biodiversity. It was also great to learn more

about fire management, and how the work conducted by Bushcare volunteers makes such a significant contribution to the overall management of the City of Hobart's bushland areas.



Photo: Bushcare volunteers enjoy a post-training day picnic

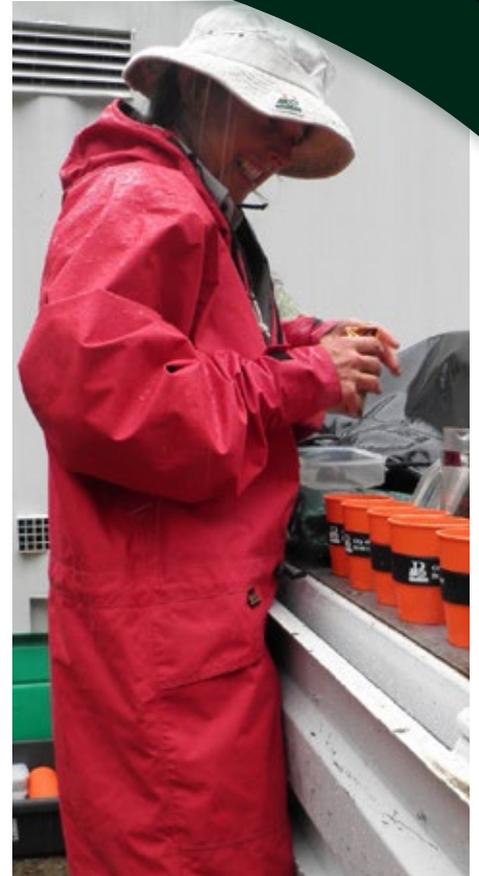


Photo: Intrepid afternoon tea: Bec prepares coffee & biccies in the pouring rain at the Ridgeway training day

Know a great Bushcare volunteer? Nominate them for a 2017 Tasmanian Volunteering Award!

**Do you know a
Bushcare volunteer who
you think deserves some
extra recognition?**

Nominations are now open for the 2017 Tasmanian Volunteering Awards. These awards recognise excellence in voluntary service and raise awareness and appreciation of the quality and variety of volunteers throughout Tasmania.

If there's a person or group you'd like to nominate for an award, check out the Volunteering Tasmania website at www.volunteeringtas.org.au for more information.

 THE 2017
SOUTHERN CROSS TELEVISION
**TASMANIAN
VOLUNTEERING
AWARDS**



To nominate, visit
www.volunteeringtas.org.au





Photo: Sally, Julie and Robyn working on gorse at Forest Rd

New work for Friends of Knocklofty

Bruce Champion

Flora Officer - Friends of Knocklofty Bushcare Group

Just before Christmas, the Friends of Knocklofty Bushcare Group (FoKL) were pleased to receive permission to work on clearing the huge hawthorn and gorse infestations on 193 Forest Road, the only unweeded private block within the Knocklofty Reserve. At the Annual Activities Program Planning Meeting in January, FoKL agreed to use funds accumulated from the wayleave maintenance work done for TasNetworks to engage a contractor to do the major work on the site, with permission from the block's owners.

Work started on Monday 30 January 2017 and FoKL were very pleased with the huge effort put in by a crew of five. They cleared almost all the hawthorn in one day; using chainsaws and cutting and pasting the cut stumps with 100% glyphosate. Some trunks were up to 80mm diameter and multi-stemmed as well.

FoKL were so impressed with the work they engaged the contractor for more work on the large swathes of gorse on this block. Meanwhile, almost all February FoKL activities will be spent on cutting and pasting the few remaining hawthorn trees and as much of the outlying gorse as can be treated before the whole of the area is subjected to a hazard reduction burn planned for this Autumn.

The property is the approximately 2 hectare triangle along the south side of the Reserve and was a bush residence prior to the 1967 bushfires. Untouched since then, the hawthorn hedges and gorse infestations

around the old residential areas on the block have grown to 3 - 5m high. The large hawthorn swathe was a solid mass of tangled branches estimated to be greater than 30m wide and more than 5m from top to bottom on the slope. It appears the wallabies browsed the underside of the trees, as the trunks were clearly visible right through. On inspection on the evening of the day's work, at least five wallabies were seen in and around the cut hawthorn, no doubt enjoying the freshly cut tops.

Following the regular checking for eucalypt and acacia regrowth that constitutes maintenance on the South Hobart wayleave on

Thursday 2 February, eleven FoKL

members worked for 1½ hours on 193 Forest Road.

They cut and pasted large gorse along the city side of the infestation, achieving a very satisfactory amount of primary gorse clearing.

FoKL is grateful to the land owners for allowing access to their land, thus helping reduce the reintroduction of these invasive woody weeds into the beautiful Knocklofty Reserve.



Photo: A happy wallaby that has been feasting on the cut hawthorn at Forest Rd



Photo: *Poa labillardierei*



Photo: *Melaleuca pallida*

How are your spring plantings coming along?

Watching the rapid growth of your native plantings is very satisfying, as Elaine from Sandy Bay discovered:

“Back in September, my husband and I queued up for one native plant each, given away by Hobart City to celebrate Bushcare Major Day Out. We took home a yellow bottlebrush (*Melaleuca pallida*) and a silver tussockgrass (*Poa labillardierei*). They were tiny! Here are photos showing their current size and state. They’re healthy and thriving and we are pleased to have them in our garden. Thank you for this excellent initiative.”

Last year Bushcare gave away over 1300 Tasmanian native plants at three plant give-away events. We hope these plants are now providing homes and food for native birds, mammals, and insects, and contributing to Hobart’s rich biodiversity. How are your plants going? We love receiving feedback, so feel free to send your pictures and messages to bushcare@hobartcity.com.au.

Clean up Australia Day on kunanyi/Mt Wellington – help us give the Mountain a makeover!

We’ll supply the bags, gloves and equipment; all you have to bring are warm clothes, wet weather gear, sturdy shoes, snacks and lots of cleansing energy.

Join Bushcare on March 4 for our annual Clean up Australia Day event on kunanyi/Mt Wellington. Last year, City of Hobart volunteers collected a staggering 200 kg of rubbish during two clean up events on kunanyi. If you would like to help this year, come along to the summit car park anytime between 10 am and 1 pm – please register your interest on the Clean Up Australia website so we know how many bags to bring: cleanupaustaliaday.org.au/kunanyi-Mount+Wellington

Bushcare supervisors will be on site, and are happy to pick up filled bags from the Springs for volunteers who want to take a walk down the Pinnacle Track. If you have any questions about the day, email bushcare@hobartcity.com.au. We hope to see you there!



Photo: Clean up Australia Day on kunanyi-Mt Wellington in 2016

Hobart weeds on the national stage

Many Bushcare groups will have worked with our Fire and Biodiversity technical Officer and weed guru Adam Muyt (some of you may also know his name from his book, *Bush Invaders of South East Australia*). Adam recently attended the 20th Australasian Weeds Conference in Perth where he gave a presentation on the City of Hobart's weed

mapping and survey project. The project ran for over three years and involved staff from the Bushland & Reserves Unit mapping and surveying more than 1000 hectares of bushland for serious invasive species. The data was captured digitally and has been stored in Council's spatial database, making it easy to produce weed maps and design control programs. The project has proven invaluable, by developing staff skills and

knowledge and shaping the weed management priorities across Council's reserves for the coming years.

Conference proceedings can be downloaded at the Council of Australasian Weed Societies webpage: caws.org.au/awc_contents.php?yr=2016#v_p209

Adam's paper is in the section Weed Potential and Assessment, on pages 218-222.



Photo: Lone Cabin Track rivulet crossing (above steps were replaced with treated pine)

Making tracks - What's happening on our reserves?

City of Hobart's Bushland tracks project team have recently completed works on the following tracks:

- The Slides Connector Track - a 1km track that links the existing Slides Track with the Tip Top Track and a Fire Trail by the southern boundary of the McRobies Gully tip. This completes the construction of a loop around McRobies Gully, making an easy riding/walking track between West Hobart and South Hobart.
- On the Queens Domain, almost 3km of new shared use tracks looping from the Tasmanian Cricket ground and around the Summit provide a route suitable for family and entry-level mountain biking
- The Cleary's Gate track leading from Cleary's gate road now provides a safe pedestrian link from Cleary's Gates to the Brooker Highway.
- The Lone Cabin Track has a new set of stone steps and a new rivulet crossing – replacing treated pine

Organ Pipes set to return to easy walking heyday

Alistair Clark
Bushland project officer

Work is planned to begin this February on rejuvenating the Organ Pipes and Pinnacle tracks to create 3.6 km of accessible, family-friendly tracks linking The Springs to the Chalet. Rejuvenating the Organ Pipes Track will help maintain its status as the only Great Short Walk in Hobart and return it to its 1930s heyday when people flocked to the mountain for day walks. The rejuvenated track will retain a natural bush feel and heritage values but provide for

easier walking. The photograph below left shows the current condition and the artist's impression on the right depicts the rejuvenated track.

Construction works will involve closure of parts of the track and temporary closures of the Pinnacle Road from Big Bend to the Chalet for helicopter drops of materials. There will be reduced car parking at the Big Bend and Chalet car parks during construction.



Photo: Great Short Walk - current condition

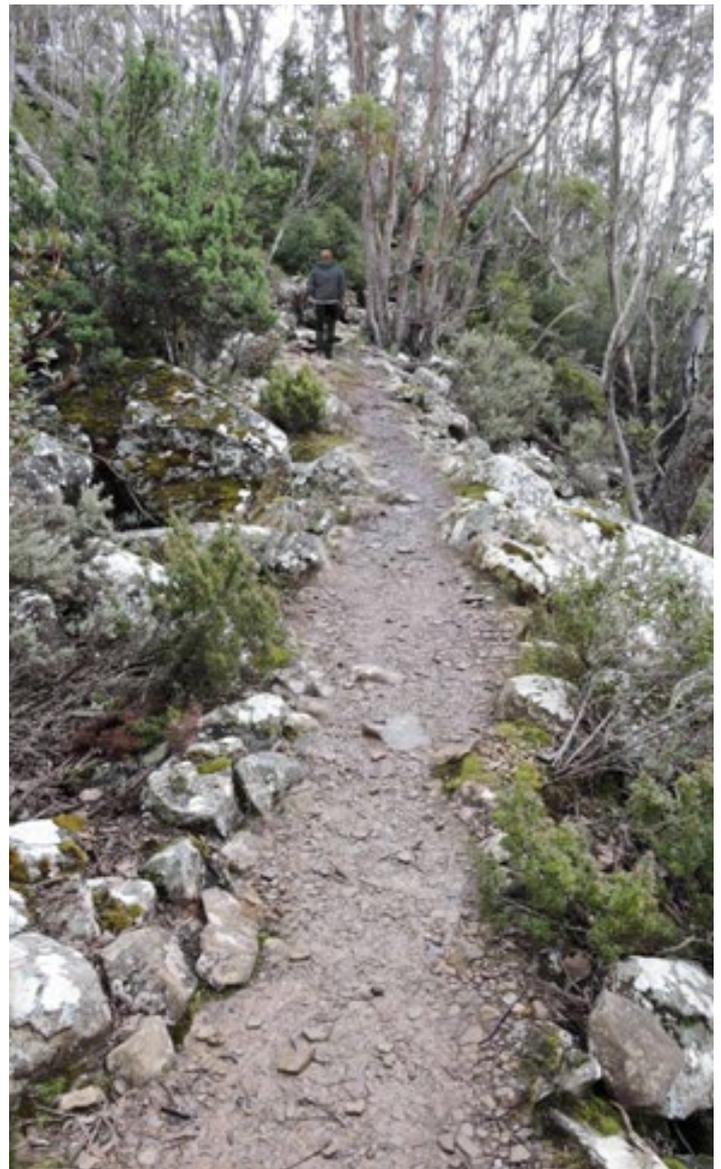


Photo Montage: Great Short Walk - desired track surface after works

Fire and Biodiversity Team working to manage fire in our reserves

Bushcare groups aren't alone in working to better manage our reserves. City of Hobart's Fire and Biodiversity Team have a packed works program planned for this Autumn, focussed on protecting Hobart's environment and homes from uncontrolled fires.

Works include:

- Fire trail upgrade project: work will focus on making sure there is adequate drainage, to

minimise the potential for soil erosion and to maximise the life of the trails themselves. Works will be undertaken in three reserves with active Bushcare groups; Ridgeway Reserve, Bicentennial Park and Knocklofty Reserve.

- Firebreak enhancement in Bicentennial Park: work will be conducted to ensure that existing firebreaks meet required standards and will

include selective vegetation removal. Works should begin in April, and be completed by mid-year.

- Autumn planned burn program: there are eight hazard reduction burns planned for this Autumn, in Bicentennial Park, Knocklofty Reserve, Queens Domain, Ridgeway Park and in Barossa catchment (which sits on the Glenorchy/Hobart municipal boundary). More information on planned burns can be found at www.hobartcity.com.au/Recreation/Bushland/Management_Burn_Program
- South Hobart Primary School: Works have been completed on the extension of the firebreak/fuel hazard management area for South Hobart Primary School in line with the requirements of the Tasmania Fire Service Bushfire Ready School Program.



Photo: A planned burn in City of Hobart bushland.

Bush Fire Awareness – How Prepared Are You?

Most Tasmanians will have heard of 'Black Tuesday', 7 February 1967, which saw the most deadly bushfires that Tasmania has ever experienced. Sixty-four people died, nine hundred injured, sixty-four thousand farm animals lost and over seven thousand people homeless.

7th February 2017 marked the fiftieth anniversary of that terrible day in Tasmania's history, with the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery commemorating the event and sharing clippings, recordings, footage and memories of the people who experienced Black Tuesday. Clarence Council also have a fascinating exhibition called "What Would You Take?"

The Tasmanian Fire Service, in conjunction with the Australian Government and Flinders University, are conducting a survey on bushfire preparation and management. They are seeking feedback on South Eastern Tasmanian residents' actions and plans in the event of future bushfires – please consider participating.

More information on the survey and information on how to volunteer during an emergency, and/or as part of community recovery efforts can be found at www.volunteeringtas.org.au.

Stay safe.

BUSHFIRE: Tasmanian Community Preparation and Response

PARTICIPANTS NEEDED FOR SURVEY

Invitation
You are invited to participate in research being conducted by Central Queensland University, part of the national Bushfire and Natural Hazards Research Centre.

This project aims to improve community bushfire safety in South Eastern Tasmania by collating the views and decisions of households living in areas at risk of bushfire. Many of the results will also apply to the rest of Australia and internationally. The Tasmanian Fire Service is a partner in this project along with many organisations and research institutions throughout Australia.

Why?
When bushfires occur it is important to learn as much as possible about the fires and people's experience of them. This helps emergency services and other groups develop better ways to improve community safety for future fires.

What does it involve?
The survey covers things like:
 • Do you have a bushfire survival plan?
 • What factors influence your plan?
 • How do you keep up with information about bushfire threats?
 • What would you do to improve your safety and that of your pets and large animals (such as horses), before and during a bushfire?

Due to the need for reliable and relevant information, parts of the survey are quite detailed. Depending on your individual experiences and circumstances, it will take between 10 and 40 minutes to complete. (You can fill some out, save it and go back later to complete it.)

The survey is anonymous and has CQU University ethics clearance.

To take part in this vital research, please go to
bit.ly/TasFireSurvey
 or call 0412 199 385
 Thank you for helping!

Contact Dr Lisa O'Dwyer:
 Mob 0412 199 385
 Lodoyer@cpq.cqu.edu.au

If you find injured or orphaned wildlife



BONORONG
Wildlife Rescue

- Keep the animal **WARM**
- Keep the animal **DARK**
- Keep the animal **QUIET**
- **DO NOT FEED** it anything
- Call us straight away for advice –
0447 264 625 (0447 ANIMAL)



Photo: Greg Irons from Bonorong demonstrates the correct way to handle a Tasmanian blue tongue

Council fire crew to the rescue!

Fire is a natural part of the Tasmanian landscape, and the City of Hobart's Hazard Reduction Burn Team work hard to implement a program of controlled burns that promote biodiversity in Hobart's bushland while reducing the risk that wildfires pose to our city. Unfortunately, even these controlled 'cool' burns can sometimes impact on wildlife that is too slow to get out of the way!

In January, staff from Council's Burn team headed to Bonorong Wildlife Sanctuary for a training session on handling and transporting native animals. They learned how to identify when an animal needs help, and how to safely catch and transport injured and orphaned animals. We expect that many furry and scaly lives will be saved as a result!

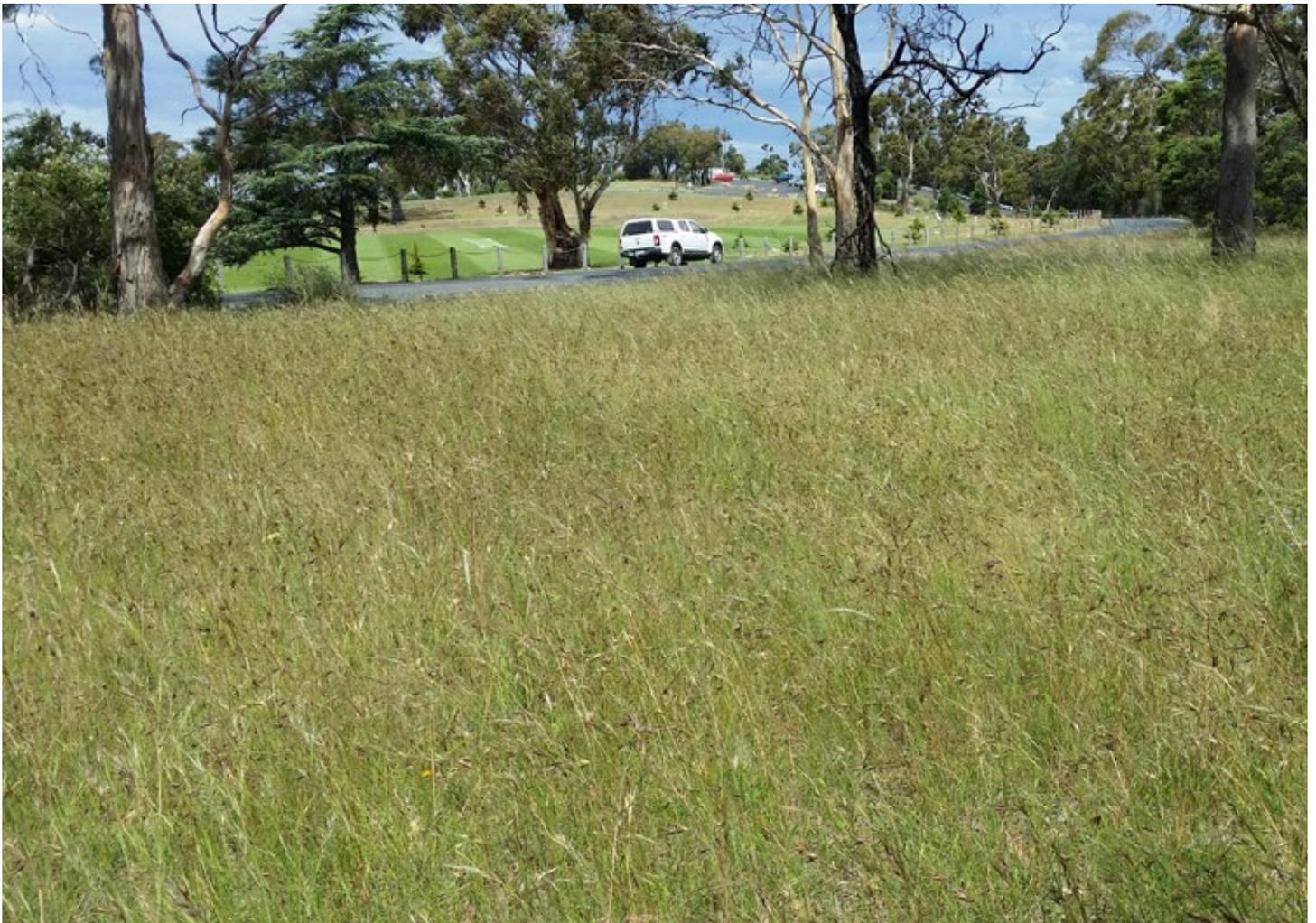


Photo: Grassy woodland understorey, dominated by kangaroo grass (*Themeda triandra*)

Grassy woodlands of the Domain bursting with life

A wet spring and summer have triggered bountiful growth in the Domain's native grassy woodlands.

Across from the Soldiers Memorial Oval, keen naturalists can spy a range of threatened and local native species, including bushy clematis (*Clematis gentianoides*, pictured), showy copperwire daisy (*Podolepis jaceoides*), billy buttons (*Craspedia spp.*), chocolate lily (*Arthropodium strictum*), early Nancy (*Wurmbea dioica*), New Holland daisy (*Vittadinia muelleri*), and native bluebells (*Wahlenbergia spp.*). With nearly 50 species recorded in this small patch, this area of grassy woodland showcases some of the most intact

understorey flora on the entire Queen's Domain, giving visitors an insight into the vegetation that once dominated the area. Council has been managing this site to maintain the diversity and structure of the understorey flora, through selective hand-weeding and mowing, and the spraying and removal of native tree and shrub seedlings and saplings.

The wet season has also pushed back the seeding of the native kangaroo grass (*Themeda triandra*). The timing of seed maturation and shedding for kangaroo grass varies according to temperatures and moisture - there's always a peak period when the majority of seed sheds. In recent years, the peak has been around the Christmas-New

Year period, but this season, the cool temperatures of recent months have pushed back the peak until late January-early February.

Not far from Soldiers Memorial Oval, the Soldiers Memorial Avenue is dominated by large swards of kangaroo grass. Balancing the cultural and conservation values there is important. That's why sections of the Avenue may appear untidy to some - the kangaroo grass is not slashed until after the main seed shedding period. Allowing the grass to set seed will ensure that the character of the grassy vegetation will be maintained for future generations.



Photo: *Clematis gentianoides*



Photo: Native bluebells (*Wahlenbergia* spp.) and billy buttons (*Craspedia* spp.)

BEYOND bushcare

PHOTO COMPETITION



THEME: Caring For Our Environment

ENTER NOW - GREAT PRIZES TO BE WON!!

Finalist images will be displayed at an exhibition at the Sustainability Learning Centre, launched during National Volunteer Week celebrations, May 2017.

CLOSING DATE
18 April

CATEGORIES

- Junior Award (Kinder – Grade 12)
- UTAS CARES Award (UTas students)
- General Carer Award (Open age)
- People's Choice Award (via Facebook)

For information on how to enter, visit:

<http://www.nrmsouth.org.au/volunteer-week-photo-comp>



Get Snapping!

Check out this year's NRM South and City of Hobart Bushcare nature photography competition! It's free to enter, with categories for all age ranges, and some great prizes up for grabs! Finalists images will be displayed at the Sustainability Learning Centre as part of National Volunteer Week - take a look at our website for more information, and check out last year's gallery for some inspiration:

www.nrmsouth.org.au/caring-environment-photo-competition/

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