



Lambert Gully Bushcare meets a local

During their March working bee, the Lambert Gully group was lucky enough to receive a visit from a spiky local, who they are sure was attempting to express thanks for keeping pesky weeds out of their habitat!



Photo: Ingrid from Lambert Gully Bushcare meets one of the locals

UTAS Cares Student leadership - the UTAS Cares executive

Bushcare had the pleasure of attending UTAS Care's first meeting at the University of Tasmania Sandy Bay campus. UTAS Cares was a novel group (and now UTAS student society) set up to connect UTAS academics and students with CARE groups/organisations like Bushcare. Taking a novel approach to engaging students has paid off. After nearly two years, we have been able to hand

over leadership of the group to the students. These students (President - Sohail Ayyaz, Vice President - Annie Choo, Secretary - Caroline Grace, Treasurer - Gary Tarafder and societies Council delegate Pratik Vhatkar) are now our champions within the UTAS student community, and will help us engage more effectively with UTAS students and academics into the future.



Photo: UTAS Cares committee

New Ridgeway convenor

This year we say goodbye to Sue Drake as convenor of Ridgeway bushcare and welcome Andrew Wakefield to the role. A big thank you to Sue for all her efforts in caring for Ridgeway's bushland in her role as convenor. We are looking forward to working with Andrew and the Ridgeway community to continue to care for Ridgeway Park and surrounding bushland.



Photo: Sue Drake (left) and Andrew Wakefield (right)

National Tree Day 2017

Council staff have been busily preparing a site for this year's National Tree Day. Located at the Derwent Foreshore, this will be the last of our community plantings at this site to help rehabilitate a rare strip of coastal woodland in Hobart. What a great way to experience Hobart's stunning scenery while caring for the land! Volunteers are needed to help plant trees on Sunday 30 July between 10 am and 1 pm. You can register your interest now by going to the City of Hobart Bushcare Facebook page, or send us an email to bushcare@hobartcity.com.au.



Photo: Council staff prepare a planting site for National Tree Day



Daphne laurel - a new weed threat for Fern Tree

In September 2012, one of our Bushcarers spotted an unusual plant growing alongside a walking track in Fern Tree. After submitting a sample to the Tasmanian Herbarium, it was quickly identified as a new weed for Australia: *Daphne laureola*, commonly known as daphne laurel or spurge laurel.

Daphne laurel is a small, long-lived shrub that thrives in full to partial shade, in wet, temperate forests. Originally from Europe, it has become naturalised in parts of the U.S.A., Canada, and New Zealand, where it forms dense stands that out-compete native vegetation. It is an attractive plant (as weeds often are!), with glossy-green alternating leaves; small mauve, white, yellow, or greenish-yellow and fragrant flowers that form in clusters near branch tips; and small fleshy fruits that become bluish-black when ripe.



Photo: Bushcare supervisor Bec amongst a patch of daphne laurel at Fern Tree

Several *Daphne* species are cultivated as ornamental plants, and it is suspected that *Daphne laureola* may have been introduced to Fern Tree as root stock for one of these. The fruits are attractive to birds, which were the most likely conveyers of daphne laurel to new patches in Fern Tree. The trees can also reproduce vegetatively - fallen stems can easily take root, to form dense stands.

Not only is this weed an environmental threat, it is also highly toxic to humans, with berry consumption being linked to the death of a child in Canada. Contact with the sap can cause irritation and blistering of the skin.

The good news is that due to the currently limited distribution of this weed, complete eradication is an achievable aim. This year, Fern Tree Bushcare group have secured a Naturally Inspired grant from NRM South to begin an education and control program aiming to engage the Fern Tree community in the eradication of this new threat.

Under the project, new daphne laurel weed flyers and an updated Fern Tree Weeds booklet are being distributed to property owners in the daphne laurel infested area, with on-ground works to remove the weed commencing this winter. Bushcare volunteers will be working on private properties to map the extent of the weed, and remove the larger stands with assistance from weed contractors.

The opportunity to completely eradicate a weed is often short-lived, so this project presents a timely opportunity for Fern Tree Bushcare to work with the community to nip this threat in the bud. If you would like to know more about the project, please contact the Fern Tree Bushcare group via Bec Johnson at becannell@hotmail.com, or Rob Beedham on 6239 1991.



Photo: Daphne laurel leaves and flowers

Sun shines on kunanyi/Mount Wellington Clean Up Australia Day event

Volunteers enjoyed delightful weather at Bushcare's Clean Up Australia day event held at the summit of kunanyi/Mount Wellington on Saturday March 4th.

The 45 participants trawled the vegetation around the summit to unearth 86kg of rubbish! Much of this was recyclable materials, with a kilo of aluminium cans, 5kg of plastic and glass bottles collected, and 3kg of large scrap metal items. Once packed down, the rubbish filled 13 big garbage bags, two of which were devoted to recyclables.

More than a few gloves and beanies were found, a testament perhaps to the summit's often wild, windy nature. A \$50 note was also found and this was donated to charity.

While this was a great turn out for this City of Hobart event, the 45 volunteers were part of the 566,000 people who helped clean up their local environment. At an event in Sydney, Clean Up Australia Chairman and Founder Ian Kiernan took the opportunity to highlight the issues of single-use products and packaging.



Photos: Clean Up Australia Day on kunanyi / Mt Wellington

"This week of action is only the beginning. Protecting our environment is about so much more than just collecting the rubbish that people discard. To make a real difference we need to look more closely at our personal purchasing behaviour and be more conscious of the single use products, packaging and plastics that we buy and then discard."

"The ever increasing presence of single-use packaging means we need to continue to challenge our governments to implement effective waste management and recycling programs to reduce the amount of wasted resource that ends up in our precious environment."



Bushcare teamed up with the Salamanca Market team and Imagination Playground to provide free children's activities on Salamanca Lawns on Easter Saturday. Bluebell the Bandicoot even came out to say hello!



Weeds can be habitat for wildlife – like this Spanish heath plant for a nesting bird.



Gorse spider mite in action



Waterworks Valley Bush Art



Lambert Gully Bushcare tackling red hot poker



Wellington Park Bushcare had some help at a recent working bee in clearing a large and dense patch of Spanish heath near Old Farm Road, South Hobart. Staff from the Integrated Marine Observing System office came along to help the group as part of their staff wellbeing program.



Group report from Friends of Knocklofty Bushcare – mission accomplished!

Photo: Jim inspecting the cut gorse after contractors have left

Bruce Champion
Flora Officer
Friends of Knocklofty Bushcare Group

Wow, it's DONE!

Thanks to the Friends of Knocklofty Bushcare group (FoKL), the big gorse and hawthorn infestation on 193 Forest Road (previously the only unweeded private block within the Knocklofty Reserve) has all been cut and pasted before a planned fuel reduction burn.

Since February, the Friends of Knocklofty Bushcare Group, with great help from our contractor, continued working on clearing the huge hawthorn and gorse infestations. On Tuesday 14 February, the contractor and his crew started at the top of the old driveway and worked across and up the large infestation, treating a large swathe. FoKL were again impressed with the work done and engaged the contractor for another day's work. This was done on 28 February and at the end of that day, at least 90% of



Photo: Gorse, gorse everywhere!

the gorse and several very large Erica (Spanish heath) plants had been treated. One Erica was estimated to be over 3m high and more than 75mm diameter where cut!

The contractors worked with chainsaws and a brush cutter with a cutting disc, and used pump pack sprays to coat the cut stumps with glyphosate making this a very efficient activity. Where possible, cut material was stacked away from the trunks of the healthy eucalypts

and other indigenous flora. The stack height was kept as low as possible to reduce the flame height during the burn, however in some places, away from trees etc. stacks had to be higher due to the huge amount of material cut. Since stacking, a lot of the gorse and hawthorn piles have collapsed to lower heights.

During February and March, FoKL Members spent as much time as possible cutting and pasting the remaining large gorse and hawthorn. Apart from

the first and third Thursday mornings and the third Sunday afternoon programmed activities, most of which were spent on the 193 Forest Road block, some additional Thursday morning sessions were organised to try to treat the remaining infestation before the planned burn. After the last of these on 27 April, less than 1% of the gorse and only a few hawthorn plants were left to be treated. Then, a couple of the members couldn't leave the last few plants untreated, so they finished the work on Saturday morning 29 April. Thank you, good people!

In addition to the hawthorn on the 193 Forest Road site, most of the hawthorn along the uphill side of old Forest Road in Knocklofty Reserve Management area KR22 has also been treated. This area is to the west of 193, which is within management area KR23. These plants were left last winter, as they were dormant, when other contractors treated

the sparser, smaller gorse in that area. The few remaining plants may be treated before the burn; otherwise they'll be treated next year if they recover from the burn.

FoKL are pleased that the weather and perhaps the planning by CoH hazard reduction personnel have delayed the large KR22 and KR23 hazard reduction burn. We hope it will be successful, and look forward to seeing what survives and what work will be required next year to treat the surviving and seedling gorse and hawthorn.

It is estimated that Oliver Strutt and his team of contractors spent about 150 man hours on site and FoKL Members at least 100 person hours. The cost for the contractor work and materials was \$10,000 and this was paid for from FoKL Aurora/Transend wayleave funds.

Job well done! Thank you all.



Photo: Friends of Knocklofty Reserve gorse busting

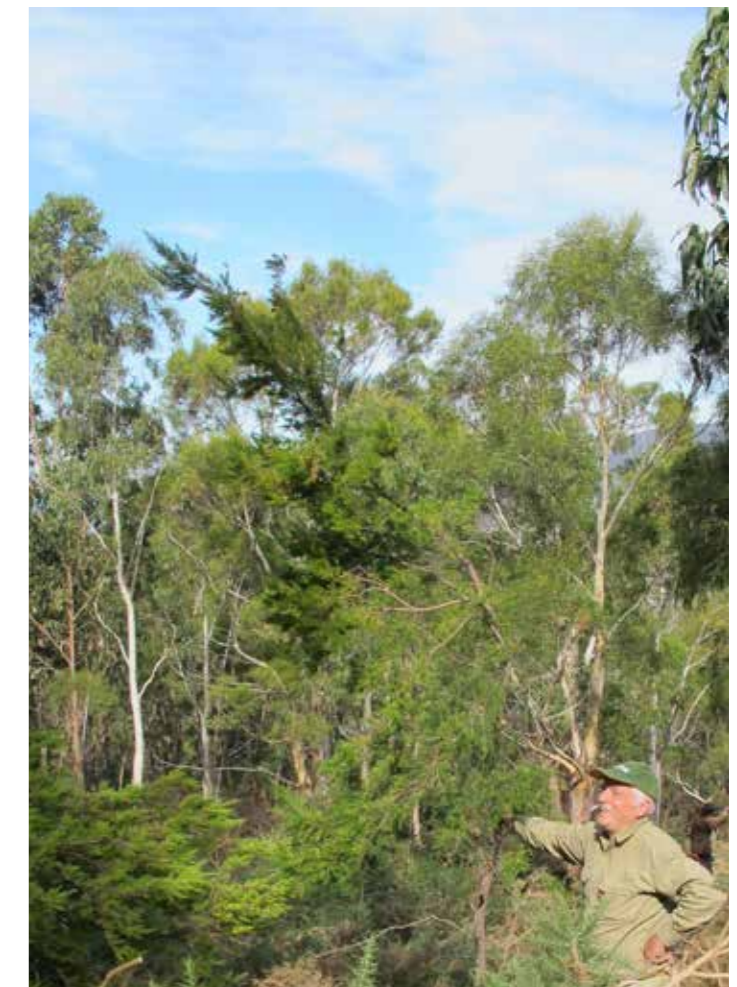


Photo: Greg holds up the huge Erica, and a picture of the fallen giant

Want to make a Difference?

Do you care about our environment and want to make a difference? Get your thinking caps on to share in \$50,000 worth of funding for innovative, environmental projects in Hobart. Grants of up to \$5000 are now available for schools, community organisations and businesses through two City of Hobart grant programs. Find out more at hobartcity.com.au/environmentgrants. Applications are due before 13 June 2017.

Sustainable Living Tasmania was one of the successful 2016 Dr Edward Hall Environment Grant recipients with their Carrotmob Hobart campaign to reduce plastic packaging. Through Carrotmob, people were encouraged to BYO takeaway packaging and food retailers were given incentives to switch to compostable packaging.

We are all keen to see an end to plastic litter in our bushland, rivers and marine environments. This project helped towards this end, however the plastic litter problem is complicated for a variety of reasons. For one, as a society we are now highly reliant on plastic packaging, particularly for our food. Although not impossible, avoiding plastic packaging requires serious dedication. Secondly, as our wastes move towards their end of life destination, some inevitably escape into our environment, particularly on windy days. Plastic bags, straws, food packaging, and cigarette butts are some of the more prevalent litter items. According to a recent Australian report on marine litter, most of the litter we see here is locally generated.

The City of Hobart has many strategies to capture escapee litter before it reaches our natural areas. Over 500 urban litter traps have been installed and more bins and cigarette butt disposal units have been placed around the CBD to encourage people to dispose of rubbish appropriately. The City is also currently considering the implications of banning single use plastic packaging. Under such a ban, food retailers would be required to provide compostable takeaway packaging options.

The City of Hobart has committed to zero waste to landfill by 2030. Plastic packaging, although not a large percentage of our total waste tonnage, is a problem waste that will need to be tackled

to reach zero waste. The Carrotmob project identified that many Hobart retailers have already switched to compostable packaging and the City is investigating the possibility of allowing compostable packaging and food waste in the new kerbside greenwaste bins.

Solutions to the plastic litter problem are emerging and the movement away from traditional plastic packaging is well and truly underway. Almost every day new and innovative ways are being found to make plastic alternatives, using a range of natural products like algae, hemp, vegetable starches and more. For now, we can preference cardboard and paper packaging (which can be composted at home) and remember our BYO keep cups, shopping bags, chop sticks and coffee cups.



CITY OF HOBART
URBAN SUSTAINABILITY

Make a difference
to our **environment**

Apply for the 2017 Dr Edward Hall Environment Grants

Applications are open until 13 June 2017.
For information and application form go
to hobartcity.com.au or phone 6238 2854.



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