



WORKING BEE REPORT September 30-October 2, 2021

FRIDAY, September 30

It was a day of “little bits” on the Friday. Carolyn and Liz met at the Yankalilla Community Nursery at about noon. Carolyn has been there quite a few times, dropping off plants, picking them up, etc, but it was Liz’s introductory visit to this great little facility. The volunteers have plenty of work spaces, stainless steel benches, tool sheds, and lots of plant benches, the latter well equipped with overhead irrigation. Many healthy little plants were lined up in their trays, waiting to be taken off for planting. Another reason for our visit, besides our look-see, was to pick up a bag of bamboo stakes, courtesy of our continual good Samaritan, Corey Jackson of Yankalilla Council.

After a quick lunch in a local café, it was time to pick up more freebies from Corey... wallaby tree guards this time. These are made of pieces of chicken wire formed into a cylinder then securely fastened.

Being about 900mm tall, they provide good airy cages for taller plants, and keep the local kangaroos and rabbits from nibbling on them. With 9 of them in the cars, it was time to finally drive our booty to Cape Jervis, ready for use over the weekend.



Later in the afternoon, there was time to take the sets of 3 photos we collect from each of our 6 photo points. We have been doing this each autumn and spring for several years, for comparison purposes. The three photos are at different levels of magnification: 1x, 2x, and 4x. Here are the 1x and 4x photos from one such set. The photo point is the ridge above our lower loop, or display garden. The view is to the north west. The first sets the location, while the other photo gives more detail of a subsection.



Liz taking photopoint photos at one of two photopoints on Flinders Drive.

This was the first site we planted on, but we don't do much along here anymore. It's still a great spot to sit and admire the view.



While Carolyn and Liz were finishing at the photo point locations, they found what they believe is a slime mould on one of the plants (*Acacia cupularis*). We are willing to be corrected on that, or given an ID if you know it!



There were lots of prettier things around as well, what with it being Spring. Here is a sample, but check out our “Friend or Foe?” Quiz later for more.



Carolyn often carries yellow pins around with her on site. These are used to mark the locations of woody weeds such as olives and boxthorn, so that they can be removed later. The weather wasn't particularly kind in the late afternoon. Check out Carolyn's many layers.

SATURDAY, October 1

The usual vagaries of Spring weather were on display this weekend. After a very cold Friday afternoon, the beautiful weather on Saturday was a blessing. Backstairs Passage was a millpond, the sky was blue, and the wind was (unusually for the cape) just a very light breeze. No plantings to organise for, just weeding supplies to pack, so it was a much quicker prep time this morning than on the previous two working bees! This was one reason Liz was on the site an hour ahead of starting time. Well, almost. Having driven gear down to our lower site, Liz was all set....except she couldn't get the lock on our chain barrier to open!



Normally she has trouble closing it, but today, multiple attempts saw the barrier still in place. Chrissy had the same problem later, but Pedro managed to finally get it open, so from then on, cars could get onto site.

See the tail end of a car near the barrier? Later in the day, cars were parked behind this one, over our “driveway”, which meant the access was blocked a different way. It was a good thing that these were our only glitches of the day!!!

From then on, it was a case of “Vollies, choose your task!” There were heaps of things to be done: weeds to be removed, tree guards to be mended or replaced, young plants to be watered...

Chrissy found a comfortable possie with a lovely view directly over the water, then spent the morning constructing double-mesh guards. We use these to surround clusters of our “small pretties” rather than individually guard each tiny plant. This has become necessary because of the on-going rabbit problem. It’s not a pretty solution, but it is effective.

Pedro was down on his knees clearing weeds from tree guards, while Philippe tackled scabiosa using our Fiskar’s Xact™ Weed puller. For those who don’t know it, it is a great piece of engineering, and means you don’t need to bend down to do weeding. Chrissy and Philippe both love this tool and we are grateful to local Moira Knight for the suggestion. It only works when the soil is moist, and is a bit slow, but doesn’t disturb the soil too much.



Julie and Carolyn worked on weeds around the small pretties and in other areas, while Liz re-guarded some larger plants with the wire guards.

When we stopped for a late morning tea, we were delighted to be joined by a local, a bearded dragon. This lizard was making good use of the habitat logs we had bought for the site, and had found a great spot in the sun. It was there when we first arrived (and stayed around for about 20 mins delighting the many walkers who walked by). It re-appeared just before morning tea, and later moved to a second log nearby, before jumping from it onto the top of a nearby shrub. You can just see its head poking out of the *Scaevola crassifolia*.



After morning tea, more weeding and watering took us through to a late lunch.



In the afternoon, we were joined by a new volunteer, Suzie. A quick lesson in identifying turnip weed, then it was all hands on deck to remove as much of this weed as possible before the day ended. Wool sacks are extremely good for loading the plants into... the wide tops mean the seed pods aren't bumped too much as the plant goes into the bag, so seed isn't released onto the site as easily. Also, the bags hold heaps!!! You do have to be careful to not overfill, more because of the weight you then need to get into the car or onto the trailer, but we can judge that pretty well these days. Add a bit of onion weed, more scabiosa, and some brassicas, and we had a good haul of weeds for the day.



Liz installed some more “wallaby guards” around the eucalypts and she-oaks growing near the standing log. Check out the scale of our canola problem. We were happy to ignore this problem, knowing that we would have contractors on site in the following week to slash them. See the story later in the report of our funding success. Soon enough it was Time to knock off!



SUNDAY, October 2

We knew there was a change in the weather coming through overnight, but we had been lulled into thinking it would not be as bad as predicted, given the beautiful weather on the Saturday. Were we wrong! It was feral on Sunday! Strong winds, lower temperatures, and some rain meant it wasn't pleasant out.

Daylight saving kicked in overnight, but we were still on site at the appointed hour... no Sunday sleeping in for this group! While Liz tackled more onion weed near the “shady grove”, Carolyn, Philippe, Chrissy and Suzie worked near the top of Sorata St., collecting and bagging a pile of turnip weed. The idea had been to venture over the ridge, but the wind made that impossible.



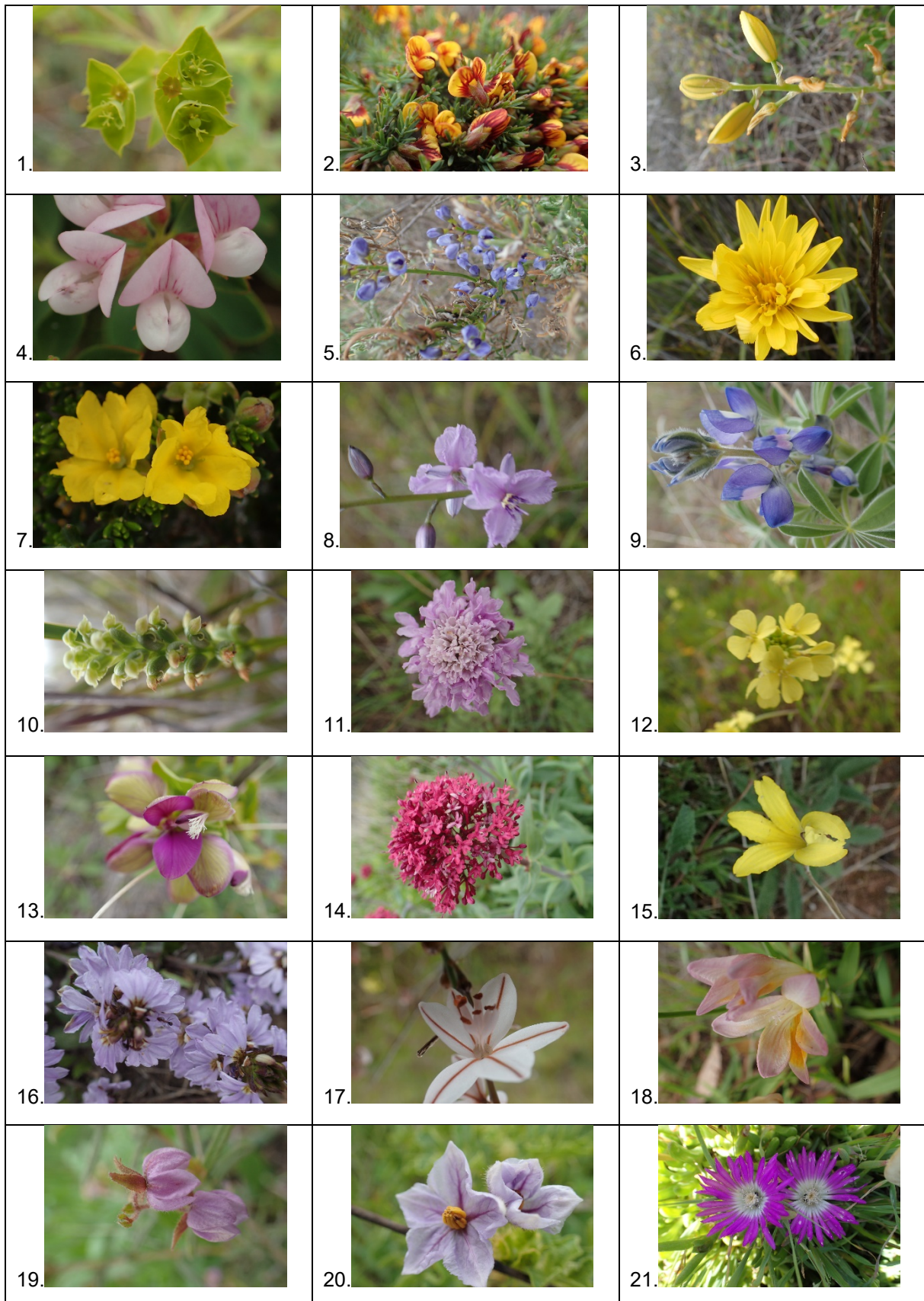
After two hours, the whole group moved down to where Liz was, which was a little more sheltered. The morning finished with everyone tackling onion weed. Liz had been digging them out, cutting off the flowering stems and bagging those, but leaving the remainder of the plant upended on the ground. Lack of space in bags and also leaving some plant behind for nutrient were reasons for this. However, with the foul weather and the desire to get more of the weed out, we ALL switched to digging up and bagging entire plants instead. Luckily Philippe has a car with plenty of space and a trailer, which he used to get the weeds to green bins or the tip for us.

We worked through the designated morning tea break in order to finish earlier (we all thought once we got out of the weather, we wouldn't want to come back to it).

So that was it for another working bee. Only a few vollies, but lots achieved. And it was great to see the newer plants from this year's plantings looking fine at the moment. Let's hope some spring and summer rains seems them through that initial year.

QUIZ: Friends or Foe??

Which of the following flowers belong to “friends” (local natives) and which are from foes (weeds)? [see the last page for the answers]



Funding update

We are funded again! A delayed thank you to the Hills and Fleurieu Landscape Board for funding Cape Jervis Coastal Community Group as part of their Grassroots Grants 2021-2022 program.

We are thrilled to have our project funded - "Expand and protect high-biodiversity coastal heathland through weed control and revegetation".

The \$5000 grant will be used for weed control, primarily to fund contractors to supplement volunteer weeding efforts freeing up more volunteer time for growing, planting and protecting rare and endangered plants.

The first site to benefit was the Sorata Street reveg patch.

Thanks to a local contractor from Normanville, Sebastian the Green Man and his team, the site was transformed after the slashing of one of the big weedy brassicas (probably canola)!

Follow up hand weeding by volunteers to remove weeds from the tree guards, shows just how tough some of the local native plants are. Even slow growing young Calytrix plants were found, and are now thriving.

Keep watching our posts to see what else we will be doing with the funding.



An amusing back story to the grant.

We originally applied for a large grant (\$18,000), bringing together the whole community including the Cape Jervis Progress Association, The Cape Jervis Community Club, the Rapid Bay Primary School and the Yankalilla Area School. The title of the project was "Protecting biodiverse vegetation at Cape Jervis: a community approach to olive management and use, resulting in fewer weedy olives".

Imagine our surprise when we were only funded for part of the weeding component of the project and none of the community stuff. Liz and I were stunned (but secretly pleased?) as the community aspects take up so much time and effort.

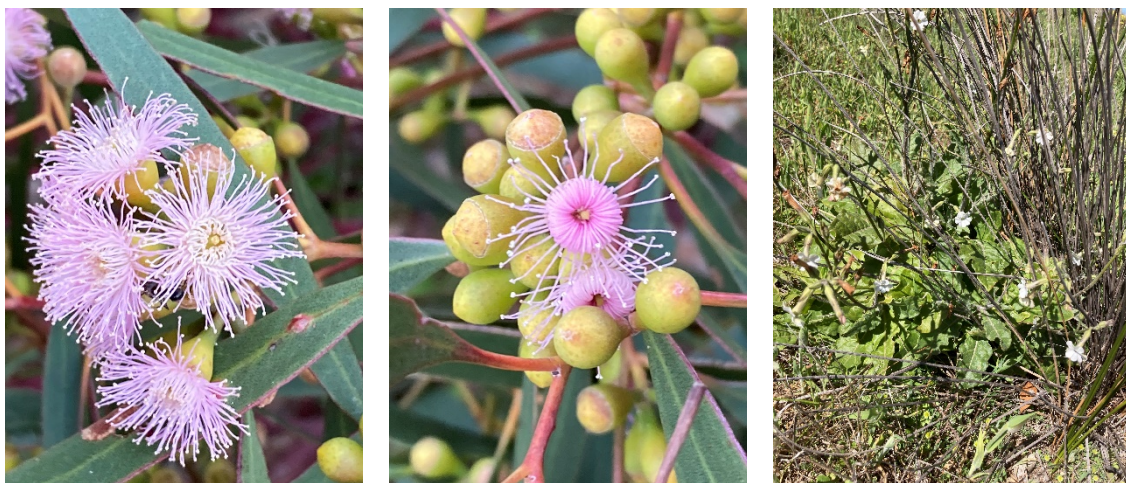
We still think the olive / community aspects of the project were really strong (to quote Liz – our best grant ever), so we will look for other funding opportunities to deliver the unfunded parts of the project (when and if we find time or the opportunity arises).

Solution to Quiz

Foes: 1 (euphorbia, sea spurge), 9 (lupin), 11 (scabiosa), 12 (Brassica - canola), 13 (polygala), 14 (red valerian), 17 (onion weed), 18 (freesia), 20 (apple of sodom)

Friends: 2 (*Pultenaea tenuifolia*), 3 (*Bulbine bulbosa*, bulbine lily), 4 (*Lotus australis*), 5 (*Comesperma volubile*, love creeper), 6 (*Microseris lanceolata*, yam daisy), 7 (*Hibbertia* sp.), 8 (*Arthropodium* sp. vanilla lily), 10 (*Microtis arenaria*, common onion orchid (often called leek orchid), 15 (*Velleia arguta*, spur velleia), 16 (*Scaevola* sp., fan flower), 19 (*Thomasia petalocalyx*), 21 (*Disphyma crassifolium*, round leaf pigface).

A few more flower pics from the Spring working bee



Eucalyptus porosa (pink form), and *Nicotiana maritima*

Dates for next year

2022 Dates	Activities (subject to change, subject to weather/needs)
Feb 5 & 6	Watering / seed collecting / weeding
Apr 2 & 3	Weeding / watering / seed collecting (planting?)
Jun 4 & 5	PLANTING!
Aug 6 & 7	Collecting plants for pressing (Herbarium) / Site maintenance / weeding
Oct 1 & 2	Weeding / watering / seed collecting [Long Weekend]
Oct 16?	Seed sowing for COOTS at Goodwood
Dec 3 & 4	Seed collecting / watering & weeding