



## WORKING BEE REPORT Sept 30-Oct 2, 2022

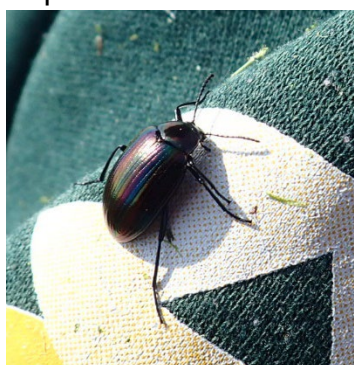
### Friday September 30

Site inspection and photo points. These were the main two items on the agenda for the Friday afternoon walk around Carolyn and Liz do, before each working bee. We have 6 photo points: 2 overlooking the Sorata St/ Shady Grove area, 2 for the lower loop/ display garden, and 2 for the Flinders Drive/drain section. We take three photos at each point, one at each magnification 1x, 2x, 4x. We have been doing this for a few years now, so we have quite a collection of photos. However we never seem to have the time to organize them well. If there is anyone out there who can't work on site for whatever reason, but has spare hours when they can sit in front of their computer, let us know!! We will send all our photos to you to organize! It would be great to have some of them on our website.

Here are two shots from Sorata St, taken just 2 years apart. The first is the current on (2022) whereas the right side is 2020. You can see the difference in even that short time. Look at the relative heights of those shrubs in the centre part, for a start.



Spring time is such a good time to visit the site. So much is flowering! Varying shades of fan flowers and *Ptilotus* were some of the delights. But there were heaps more. Look for the collage later in the report.





There was also the newly slashed lower loop to look at. Shaun (Wirra Bush Regeneration) and his team did a great job, as usual. With bi-monthly working bees, it is hard to make sure weeds are slashed to prevent seed set at the right time. If seeds are forming in September, and we aren't there until October, it can mean a massive explosion in weeds the following year. So we are really thankful for grant funding we get to employ contractors like Shaun. Our Grassroots grant funding 2021-2022 has meant our volunteers have been able to weed and brushcut elsewhere on site over two springs. What a transformation Oct 2022!



Not quite the same photo angle, but what a difference we've made since Nov 2013. The photo below was taken after our first slashing. Before the picnic table, extra paths, log seat and gumnuts! Thanks to everyone who has helped with this transition.



The group has become a victim of its own success. The more we plant, the greater the area that needs maintenance (watering and brushcutting). The next few years will hopefully see us transition to a consolidation phase with less planting and more care. At least that's the idea – time will tell if we stick to the plan!

The weather turned cold at about 4.30, so time to go home and start planning for the future. A good thing to do while having a drink with Chrissy and Pedro.



## SATURDAY, October 1

Morning plan: weed, plant, remove tree guards. The weather this year has been a bit kinder than normal, so the plantings done by the Rapid Bay kids in 2021 at the base of the knoll, have grown well. Many plants have filled their tree guards, so these needed to come off.

Still planting in October, we can hear you ask. Yes, this is unusual for us. But Carolyn had a tray of 'plugs' of wallaby grass and *Senecio pinnatifolius* that are good self-seeders. Liz put the plugs into the "grasslands" area of the lower loop to plug some gaps between existing grasses and *Leucophyta brownii*. The plug trays on loan from the Yankalilla Community Nursery have 94 cells and give really nice root growth.



Carolyn was hoping to weed the small pretties corner, while Sally, Sue, Greg and Martin took to removing tree guards and weeding in the 2021 Rapid Bay plantings. With a few relatively new volunteers the plant tags stapled to the stakes proved their worth. Sue, Greg and Sally were taken with the summer active grass *Enneapogon nigricans* (blackheads), managing to set seed out of season, despite all the weed competition. We are always amazed at how many spiders love the tree guards and our plants



At morning tea break, we had a quick visit from our pal, Julie Tetlow. She was just about to drive back to Victoria where she is currently working, but called in to say hi. Julie timed it perfectly for a quick cuppa and chat.





After morning tea, Liz, Pedro, Vince and Suz continued at the base of the knoll, while Carolyn gave an impromptu lesson on seed collecting to the others.



This is how the base of the knoll looked after everyone's efforts. Well done, guys. Quite an improvement!



One thing we have found with everyone involved in landcare is how willing they are to share their knowledge and skills. We learned a lot from other volunteers when we started out, and are still learning. At the same time, passing on skills we have learned to others is also important, such as seed collecting.



After lunch, the volunteers all moved to the Sorata St/ Shady Grove area. Here, we had a demonstration by Martin on using a hedge trimmer attachment to cut large swathes of weeds, and a self-propelled lawn mower for cutting shorter stuff. This was our chance to learn something new! Martin's mower left our path into the shady grove looking fantastic. Carolyn had a bash at using it, while Liz had a bash at the hedge trimmer. Liz didn't fare too well...the device was set up for a right hander (Liz is left-handed) and it proved too heavy and awkward for her. But it was great to try the tools out before we committed to buying any, to see if they worked for us. We really appreciate Martin taking the time to bring them down specifically for us to try. Martin is a member of the Friends of Glenthorne Park, another example of other groups sharing their knowledge!



After the demo, it was back to weeding for everyone, using whatever tool they fancied...some cut seed heads and flowers off scabiosa, or pulled out brassicas. Others brushcut. The day was so good everyone worked overtime, putting in almost an extra hour at the end of the day. Sal and Trev weeded in the tree guards, can be seen coming back down the shady grove path with their weed bags.





## SUNDAY, October 2

Normally of a Sunday, it is a really small group of volunteers out...often just Carolyn and Liz. We were blessed this Sunday with not only superb weather, but a lovely group of vollies...Jane, Anne, Sue and Greg as well as Carolyn and Liz of course.

Chrissy put in an hour of weeding at Sorata Street before she and Pedro had to head home to Adelaide, while the rest congregated at "the drain". This is the corner of Flinders St and Fleurieu Ave at CJ. Carolyn is after a different name for that site, so if anyone has any good ideas, let her know! It is so descriptive of the patch though, it is going to be hard to replace it!!

We had 12 *Allocasaurina verticillata*, drooping she-oaks to plant, courtesy of Sally, via the Yankalilla Community Nursery. Given the drain was recently slashed, it was a good chance to get them in there, especially since more rain was due on the Tuesday. Liz took up the mattock to dig the holes, and do the planting.

There was also weeding to be done...do we ever NOT do weeding??? Great to see the Malva (native hollyhock), planted last year, flowering so well.





When our group first started we were very fortunate to be provided with some PPE through DEW. This included snake gators, which we encourage all our vollies to wear over spring/summer. Here Carolyn is showing Anne how they are worn. No snakes were seen on the day by us thankfully.

After morning tea, Anne selected to continue weeding, while everyone else went on a cyclops hunt. This area is particularly prone to incursions of cyclops, but because we rarely work in this area, we don't often get the chance to get them out while small. They also seem to hybridise in this patch, so it is a bit hard sometimes to tell the "goodies" (*Acacia longifolia* ssp *sophorae*) from the "baddies" (*A. cyclops*). So Carolyn spent a little time explaining the intricacies of cyclops hunting to the newbies, then we were off!



Actually, it was just lovely to wander over that part of the site in such nice weather, and see all the spring flowering plants in bloom. Chocolate lilies, thomasia, yellow stars, hardenbergia, pimelea, scaevola ... the list goes on and on.

We called it quits at noon. Everyone went home to enjoy the rest of the long weekend, knowing the site was looking heaps better for their efforts.

## Thank you

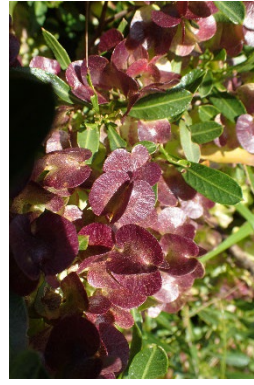
Thanks again to all our vollies...we love the fact you turn up, and put in all that time and effort, when you could be off sitting in the sun. We are looking forward to spending more time with you in the future!



And now for some of our pretties...







**and signs of insect life ...**

