



WORKING BEE REPORT August 3-5, 2018

FRIDAY, August 3

Well, the weather was definitely not planning on helping us out this working bee. The forecast was for high winds, low temperatures, and rain. And that's what we got, for the entire three days. So rather than get out onto a really windy site on Friday morning, we just changed the start of the working bee to a meeting with Corey Jackson, of Yankalilla Council...at Yankalilla Bakery. Corey is always a huge help to us, with his local knowledge, and his ability to get us support through the council. We have particularly appreciated the weeding he has organised for the site, over the years, and the plants he has provided for revegetation. This year, Corey will also be organising a team to clear a path through part of the site, to help connect our nature trail. We have been working on the nature trail since our group was formed 6 years ago. Plantings and weeding have been planned around this trail since the very beginning, but in some parts, there isn't an actual path for people to follow. However, by the end of the year, we should have a definite track through the shady grove!

Despite the weather, once at Cape Jervis Carolyn and Liz did the now obligatory Friday site inspection...shortened though because of the gale force winds! The bunting we had put around the direct seeding experimental area is showing evidence of the wind effects: Quite a few of the flags have ripped off.



Meanwhile, Chris and Peter were working in the shed, preparing for the Saturday.

Chris has become a dab hand at bailing up recycled stakes!

Peter painted the ends of some stakes white, so that they could be used later in the weekend to mark out the path through the shady grove.

SATURDAY, August 4

This is where we started work on the Saturday. You will recognise our bunting of course, demarcating the experimental area of direct seeding. Flags are a-flapping, workers are well rugged up (it WAS cold!)



We still had plants to go in, and planned to put them around this corner of the new area. Liz did “scrapes” while Carolyn got to work with the augur. We really appreciate the augur: it enables us to get holes dug fairly quickly, despite the rocks under the ground. Then it was all hands on deck to get the plants in and the tree guards on.

It was too windy to place tree guards on the ground, as they took off in the winds, so they were stacked in the back of one of the cars. It’s not very often that we see proper waves breaking on this part of the coast. Bit rocky for surfing though!



A quick inspection revealed that our mauve “scarlet” mint bushes, *Prostanthera aspalathoides*, are flowering nicely on the lower loop!





Here is the finished effect of the plantings, mostly coast pomaderris *Pomaderris paniculosa*, which will form a low hedge, and a ground cover saltbush, *Atriplex semibaccata*, which has been self-seeding well on other parts of the site:



We also dug some holes near the picnic table (see the yellow pins), to fill in where some gaps had appeared, and the plants were placed near their holes, ready to go in. If you look carefully at the photo of the picnic table you can see waves crashing over the rocks. However, there is something you can't see. There are no tree guards. Whoops, we forgot to plant the plants. We were obviously in a hurry to get out of the wind!



Carolyn found them 9 days later, while visiting the site with Corey Jackson (Yankalilla Council) and Rachel Godoy (our new volunteer support coordinator). Thankfully they were not too worse for wear, just a bit dried out. However, they are now in the ground, with some water from our water bottles. Hopefully they will survive their unfortunate beginnings on the site.



In the late morning, we were joined by Suz, Vince and Camellia, Clare, Jess and Maggie. We moved to the Sorata St patch, out of the wind a bit. There were plants to go in here as well, and lots of weeds to come out! Most of us spent time removing ice plant, brassicas, etc. Pity it was far too windy to spray all those soursobs!!



SUNDAY, August 5

Just Carolyn and Liz on the job today. The lousy weather and previous commitments chased everyone else away. We started early, to try and avoid the rain that was predicted for later that morning. It was a good opportunity though for us to mark out where the path should go through the shady grove, ready for Corey's team to come in and clear/flatten it. It will be nice to have a path through this section. At the moment, there is a large really uneven patch on the site of an old, defunct rabbit warren. Long weeds on top make for tricky footwork walking over that part...never sure where the holes are! A new path will be great. So armed with our freshly painted white-tipped stakes, we mapped out a nice curvy trail.



We also “rescued” some small pretty plants from the tyre tracks near the shady grove. We think this plant is the pale fanflower, *Scaevola albida*, and we have never managed to get seed of it. So the plants were placed in a bucket for potting up at home, and all going well, will be returned to the site next year. We learned that this plant spreads by underground runners from nearby plants.



We also collected some stones on site for one of the Nature Play activities we've lined up to go on the lower loop. Look out for them in October's newsletter!

And because the weather was not conducive to rambling to see what was in flower on our working bee – we have included some plant photos from the COOTS site, Lands End, late August, where the weather was spectacular – no wind and warm!

