



WORKING BEE REPORT October 12-14, 2018

FRIDAY, October 12

In August we complained about the weather for the working bee. We certainly weren't complaining this weekend! On both Friday and Saturday we were blessed with sunshine and low winds. A little bit too warm, maybe, when we were working, but SO much better than those high winds of August.

On the way to Cape Jervis, Carolyn called in to pick up an extra brushcutter. Our thanks to Jeff and the COOTS group for the loan; it was great having two on the weekend, especially one with a blade. Friday afternoon, Liz and Carolyn began by taking three sets of photos from the set photo points we use, then went to the lower loop to start "tidying up". We had thought over the past few years we were depleting the amount of wild oats and veldt grass on that part of the site, by our continual slashing and poisoning. However, with such a dry winter, the oats had already set and dispersed its seed, so this year was more a case of just cutting it down rather than limiting seed drop for next year. Such a pity.

We worked for more than 3 hours that afternoon. The bits we did slash looked much better (see the before and after photos below). It was a bit discouraging to see how little of the site we had cleared, but look how well the plants are growing!. Our plantings have thickened up, but it also means it is harder to work around and through them with the brushcutters. However, there was always Saturday!



Meanwhile, back at Carolyn's house, Control Central, Peter and Chris were getting the water containers filled ready for Saturday (and simultaneously cooking everyone a beautiful roast for dinner!).



SATURDAY, October 13

All hands on deck bright and early...cars to be loaded, and friends to be rescued! Suz and Vince, regular volunteers, were planning on coming straight to the working bee from their camping holiday at Deep Creek. However, they had a flat battery on Saturday morning, so Peter raced off with his jumper leads to get them going. Well done, Peter.

Meanwhile, Richard, a visitor from Friends of the Heysen Trail, joined us at the lower loop to see what we were doing near the start of the Heysen. He stayed to help with a bit of weeding, after being given a tour of the area by Carolyn. Richard was keen to tackle a patch of weedy lupins that has been getting bigger over the last few years. More on lupins later!

Liz started with the brushcutting again while Chris pruned *Atriplex*, and hand weeded a round our 2018 plantings. Once Peter returned, he started emptying all those containers of water he had packed, with help from Chris and Vince, on our dry seedlings. By then, Carolyn was back on brushcutting duty as well.

Our mauve “scarlet” mint bushes, *Prostanthera aspalathoides*, displayed in the August report, are still flowering nicely on the lower loop. And even more satisfying, we have multiple orobanches flowering and setting seed!! We had gathered some seed of these from the COOTS site in 2016, sowed the seed in the same tubes as some *Senecio odoratus*, one of their hosts, and success! Great to see this regionally endangered plant doing well in it’s new location.



Morning tea break: picnic table overlooks the coastline, weather was perfect, great cakes (including Chris’s extra special sponge kisses with passionfruit icing...yum) and friends to share it all with. We aren’t quite sure that Richard garnered much from his chat with Camellia, in Mandarin, but she enjoyed it, judging from her smiles. Great break! Sorry Richard to get a picture of you while you were drinking your coffee.



We didn't see much wildlife this weekend. However, there were two different species of ladybirds and even quite a few of the ladybird nymphs (centre, below).



After finishing the morning's work session at 1.20pm, we had a quick lunch break, then headed off to the Trig Point/Lands End for the Spring "Walk and Weed". There is quite a diversity of pretty "littles" on the path from the carpark area to the Trig Point. Again the dry weather meant many of the things we would normally see at this time had already finished flowering. The dry weather didn't stop the lupins at the coast line setting seed though! We collected 4 very heavy chaff bags of seed pods from them, and pulled or chopped off the plants. Getting the bags back up the hill there was a good bit of exercise, especially given the heat! Look how many fat, healthy pods there are on this one representative stalk. We understand some lupins are edible...we wish these ones were, and someone would harvest them!! Sadly they are spreading along the Heysen Trail too, towards the ferry terminal.





What a treat to see the stunning purple love creeper climbing through many different plants. We also spotted a few of these iridescent moths known as Satin-green forester, *Pollanisus viridipulverulenta*. One very cooperative one, landed on a coast beard heath (*Leucopogon parviflorus*).



Yam daisies were setting seed though, so that was good. Minnie daisies were out in force, and Satin Everlastings were also flowering.



Chris, Suz and Camellia returned to Control Central while the weeding was proceeding, to complete another task: painting rocks! We had collected rocks on site in August, for our nature play activity of tic tac toe. We now have a set of ladybirds, and a set of blue banded bees, courtesy of Chris and Liz. Chris and Suz gave them final coats of preservative over the weekend. So now all we need are the pavers to dig into the ground near the picnic table, and that activity is good-to-go. Sorry Chris for the not so flattering photo.



Here is another weed on site: sown vetch. Look at the top of the leaf. That is a very distinctive shape, almost flat then a little pointy bit. This one also grows seed pods, but they aren't as big or hairy as those of the lupin earlier. Still so many weeds to learn.



SUNDAY, August 5

We had reported last time that Yankalilla Council were organising a team to clear a path through part of the site, to help connect the top, bottom and middle of our nature trail. We had hoped that by the end of the year, we would have a definite track through the shady grove. That unfortunately is no longer the case, but we are assured it has been locked in for February 2019. In the meantime, we are still working to reduce the weed population and increase the success rate of plantings in that area. So early on Sunday, Peter and Chrissy were out with the water containers. The ground is SO dry, Peter included some soil wetter in the containers. Hopefully that will keep the new plants going til December.

We were joined in the morning by Annie, a Cape Jervis local. We met Annie when she walked her dog past us on the lower loop months ago, and she has been out several times now to help. In between working bees, Annie has been helping by removing tree guards from larger plants, and stacking them for us. On this Sunday, she hand pulled baby brassicas from remnant vegetation. Your help is really appreciated, Annie! Liz and Carolyn did some more brush cutting. The brush cutter with the blade is an absolute must on the larger brassicas (Thanks again Jeff Reid from COOTS for getting it serviced and a new blade – it worked a treat!).



And back in Adelaide the lupin seedpods and turnip weed seed go in the green waste bin to be turned into compost. Turnip weed has to be placed into the bags very carefully, because the pods shatter as soon as they are touched if dry. See the small round seeds on the lupin pod on the right



Some of our volunteers and their favourite plants



Peter's favourite is *Kennedia prostrata*, a ground cover which produces beautiful red flowers. No flowers on the one at Peter's knees, here, but lots of brown seed pods thickening up! Suz's favourites are the *Acacias*... and no, that is not an acacia she and Camellia are standing alongside. This one was Camellia's choice: an *Atriplex cinerea*. This one had male flower heads on it: those tassels on the tops of the stems.



That's a *Xanthorrhoea semiplana* that Chris has chosen. This little one has been in the ground on site for about 5 years. Doesn't look like it has grown much compared to other things, but hey, grass trees are slow growing, and it has survived AND thickened up with many new leaves! Anyone who knows Carolyn would know she has a fondness for *Leucopogons* and a dislike of *Acacia cyclops*, both of which feature in her photo above. Carolyn is so fond of *Leucopogon parviflorus* she once had some of us cleaning seeds of them in a glass bottle, with grit lemon juice and several other things, to emulate a bird's stomach!! Later she found birds had rewarded her with a whole pile of nicely cleaned ones near her own fishpond and with Ron Taylor's help we now have a much simpler and more reliable method!

And just to showcase a bit of Cape Jervis, here is a photo of the new passenger ferry heading in from Kangaroo Island..



Highlights of plantings in 2018 – including two new “rare” species

	Common name	IUCN status for KAN02 = Southern Lofty*
<i>Aristida behriana</i>	Brush Wire-grass	Least Concern
<i>Austrostipa acrociliata</i>	graceful spear-grass	Rare
<i>Austrostipa echinata</i>	spiny spear-grass	Vulnerable
<i>Banksia marginata</i>	Silver banksia	Least Concern
<i>Neurachne alopecuroidea</i>	Fox-tail mulga-grass	Least Concern

* Conservation status is available from SA Seedbank (saseedbank.com.au), and Cape Jervis is in the KAN02 region (Southern Lofty). IUCN = International Union for Conservation of Nature.

These new plant species bring our list of species planted on site to 93 plants. Still a long way to go to match the 200 + known species in the region.

Thanks again to all of our volunteers and supporters who generously share their time, knowledge and passion to making a difference at Cape Jervis. Hope to see you again soon!